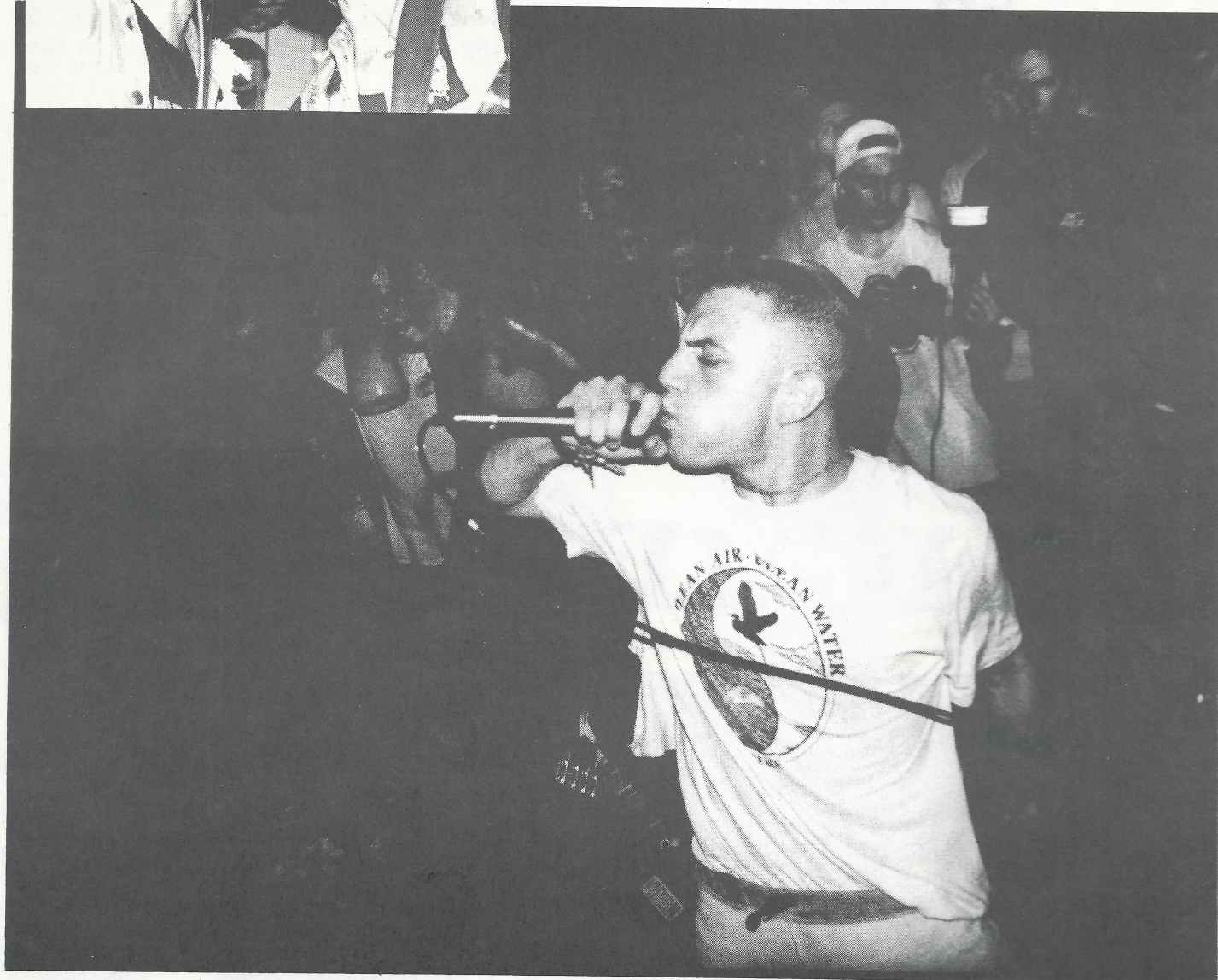




# NO ANSWERS

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## YOUTH OF TODAY NO FOR AN ANSWER

Photos: Bad Brains, C.O.C., Dag Nasty, Raw Power, Rollins Band, Blast, O.R.I., and more...



NO  
ANSWERS

5  
ZINE

Back issues of No Answers are available for \$1.50 postage paid. #1 is sold out, #2 features Shade of Grey, State of Confusion, & Corrosion of Conformity, #3 includes S.N.F.U., Plain Wrap, Final Conflict, The Instigators, and others, #4 takes a look at Das Damen, NOFX, Big Stick, Down Syndrome, and lots more...

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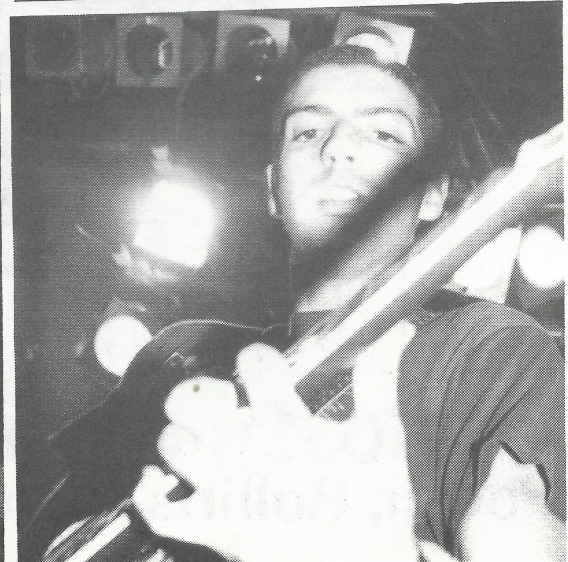
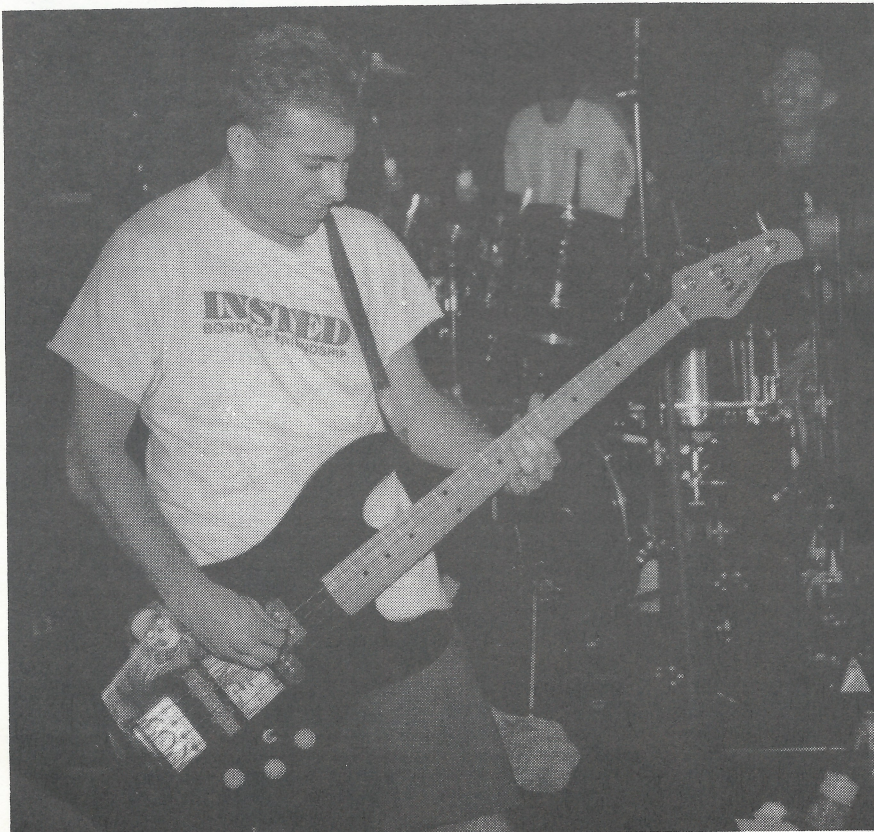
ads are negotiable...

Thanks to: Dan and John of No For An Answer, Jay for aiding us on our quest for the air waves, Vuckovich for the needed photo help and friendship, those who sent stuff for review, Youth of Today for rekindling my flame, and Sonia for her love and ability to understand the inferno that burns within... In a sense of remorse I do dedicate this tree to all those who I have seen fall, you've shown me the paths to avoid... - Kent

# JUSTICE LEAGUE ★

Cover photos: Youth of Today  
& D.O.A. by McClard

Photos: McClard





# READ THIS FIRST!

O.K., before we go any farther, let us get a few things straight. In the past I used to put No Answers out with the hope of pleasing people, but that's no longer the case. This is my 'zine. Everything in it reflects my tastes, my views, and my lifestyle. If you like what you see then that's cool, and if you don't, well that's fine too, just do us both a favor and throw it in the trash. I put this together to fulfill my own personal needs. It has nothing to do with your pleasure. I figure that if I'm going to lose money I might as well enjoy doing it. So, this is the premise that I'm going to go on from here on out.

With that in mind you must also realize that I'm a vegetarian and very much into the straight edge philosophy! So naturally the contents of this rag reflect that lifestyle. This isn't to say that I ignore the rest of the music scene, but lyrics and attitude are extremely crucial to me! I don't want to listen to music that is in conflict with my views, or that has nothing to say. There is an incredible amount of music out there, far too much for me to hear. So I sort through and find the stuff that I can relate to. Why should I listen to regressive music that has nothing to say? I don't want to hear about some guy's sexual fantasies, I don't want to hear about a band's drinking binges and hangovers, I don't want to hear sheer nothingness, and I don't find joke bands to be very amusing. Intelligence, now that's enjoyable. Contrary to some people's views, integrity and intelligence do not equal gloomy dead seriousness. Nothing can be more enjoyable and exciting than seeing a band that expresses your personal views! That's more than enjoyment, that's ecstasy!!

I grew up listening to powerful music that dared to state a message. Crass, S.S. Decontrol, Dead Kennedys, Minor Threat, and countless others taught me that punk rock was about saying what you felt and preaching your values and ideas. That's what I was raised on, and that's what I want to hear now! When I see a band I want to be energized by a musical barrage, but I also want to hear and see some intelligence. As far as I can see the most constructive music and messages of this confused network of underground peoples are coming out of the straight edge, positive, and political scenes. There are always exceptions, but still these are the camps that are still clinging onto the one concept that punk rock was and should be based on: THINK!!!

Flex your head, please. Every action you take has an outcome. Some aren't so obvious, while some are shockingly plain. This world is in a lot of trouble. Violence, pollution, hate, crime, and an attitude of uncaring self-preservation are bringing everything to a danger point. In twenty years the environment is going to be fatally wounded. The destruction started three hundred years ago, and has only grown worse since. Are we going to see the process completed? I refuse to contribute to the filth that infests this world. Therefore, I am straight edge and vegetarian. Sure, you can laugh, but it's a beginning. It's an effort to avoid the sewers of life. What good can possibly come from drugs, alcohol, and meat? None, that is the answer... As I see it they only help to reinforce an attitude of consumption and self-gratification. Also, by participating in the use of drugs you help to feed the vast crime network that has more power than any of us truly realize, and you give a vote of approval to a lifestyle that has destroyed the lives of millions of human beings. The straight edge can help to end these problems. But as I said, it is only a beginning. From this vantage point we must move on to prevent the destruction of our world.

How can straight edge solve such vast problems? Well, think about it this way... There is pollution all around us, why put some more into our bodies? I breathe polluted air everyday, I don't need to increase it by smoking and drinking. Those things can't be good for me. I can't stop corporate America from polluting my environment, but I sure as Hell can stop myself, so can you. Maybe when we've surmounted that problem we can then move towards the larger. But we will never change anything unless we can first change ourselves. The outcome of this world rests in our hands. We can do anything we want with our lives. I prefer to struggle against the corruption, if I don't then I will certainly fail, and if you don't resist then we shall all go down in our own funnel of destruction. We must change ourselves in order to change the whole. Heal yourself first. This is only my opinion, but I will always promote it with undying faith just as society promotes the hate, drug abuse, crime, and general ugliness... RISE ABOVE... - Kent Yes, I take myself seriously. If I didn't, who would I be???



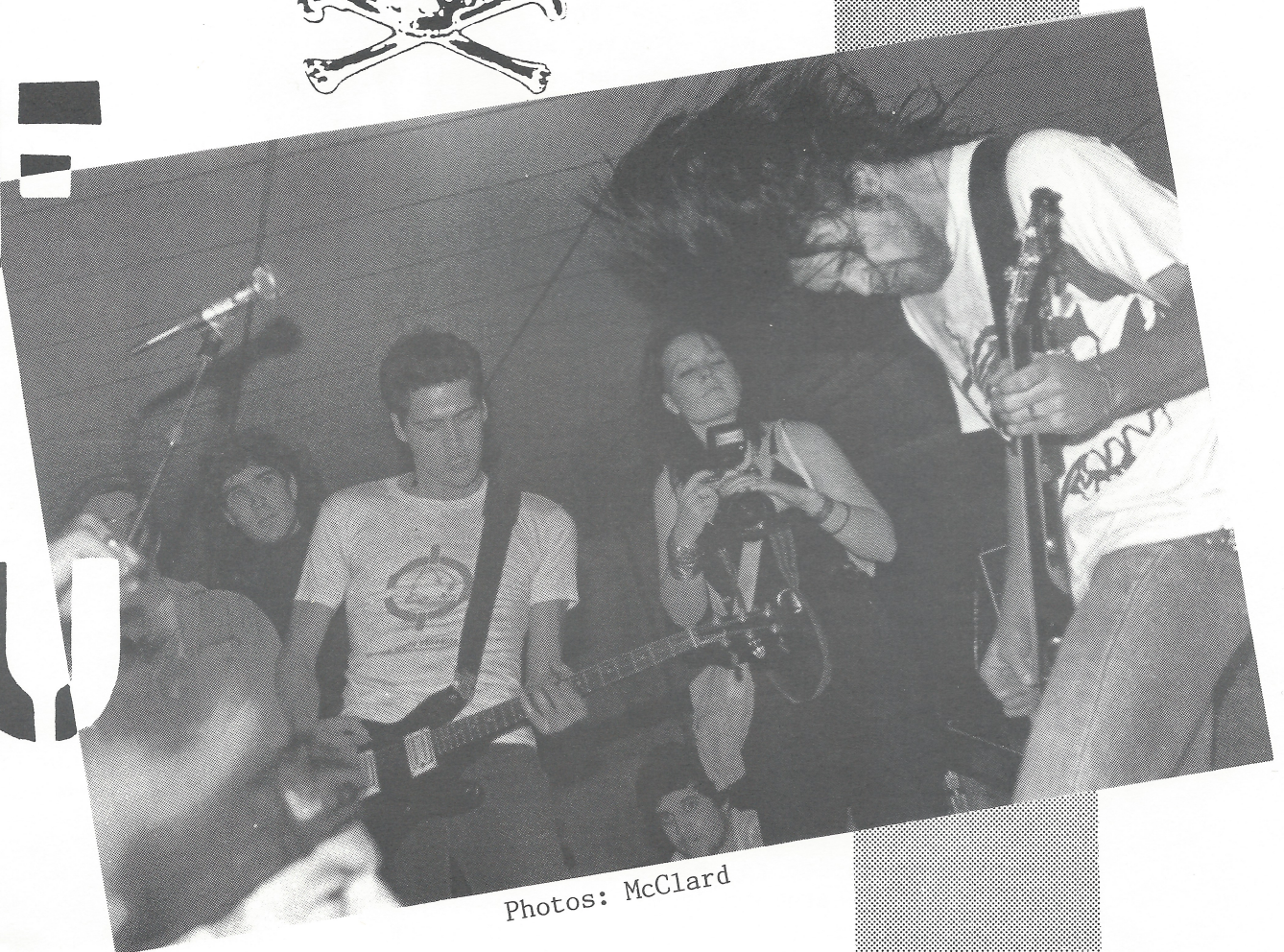
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Photos: McClard



# NO FOR AN ANSWER

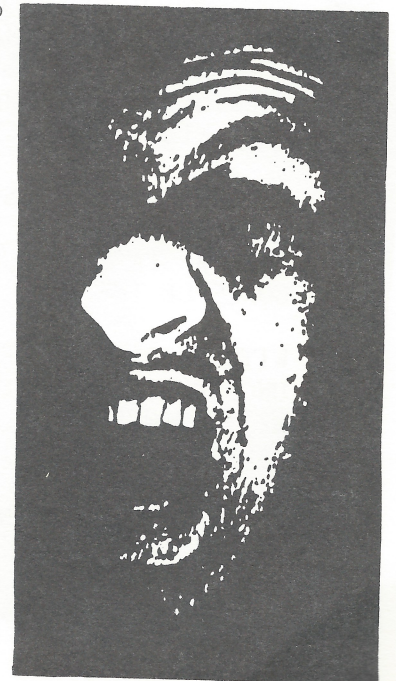
From behind the Orange Curtain comes a band that flames with the power, intensity, and sincerity that first made bands like Minor Threat, D.Y.S. and S.S. Decontrol popular. No For An Answer is a true breath of fresh air in a period when regressive rock is protruding its ugly head into the punk rock world. Their "You Laugh E.P." is probably the best release of the year, and their live show has the vibrancy of youth in motion. When I first heard their 7" I had a vision of early Dischord singles, and a hope that No For An Answer could pull the straight edge movement out of its past. Let us move on with the intelligence, integrity, and open mindedness that we can achieve at our best... With that in mind here is an interview with Dan O'Mahony of No For An Answer... - Kent

No For An Answer  
20308 Magnolia St.  
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

- NA: How long have you been together?  
NFA: Just under a year.  
NA: Who are the current members?  
NFA: Dan O'Mahony (20, throat), Gavin Ogelsby (21, guitar), Quinn Millard (20, skins), Rob Hayworth (15, guitar), John Mastropaolo (20, bass).  
NA: What other bands have N.F.A. members been in?  
NFA: Carry Nation, Winds of Promise, old members were in Half Off and Justice League.  
NA: Why did you form?  
NFA: To ease personal tensions within myself caused by a sense of ineffectiveness. Editorializing (written) and illustrating never gains the ear that music does.  
NA: What's the band's most important message? Why?  
NFA: The focus of No For An Answer is awareness, and as that is a vague or varying topic it must be broken down into individual issues, issues which I feel are important. The combination of intelligent approaches toward violence, chemical abuse, and promiscuity results from awareness and investigation. Awareness is the most necessary tool in living a constructive life.  
NA: When did the Orange County straight edge scene start? How and Why?  
NFA: Probably about '82-'83 with the first shows of bands like Unity and Signal of Distress. The straight

edge scene in Orange County started as an "organized" refusal of O.C.'s party circuit.

- NA: How do you feel about it?  
NFA: I feel that Orange County's S.E. scene has undergone many changes in the last five years, very few old faces remain, very few new faces show as much open mindedness as the old school did. It seems that S.E. kids today will only tolerate S.E. bands.  
NA: Do you feel like a strong voice in the scene?  
NFA: It's not mine to say. I think we get a lot of attention. They listen but I don't know if they hear.  
NA: Why do you do a cover of Agnostic Front's Last Warning?  
NFA: Last Warning represents annoyance with undue scepticism, and it clarifies that it is not meant as a threat, but rather that cynical behavior breeds its





own regrets.

NA: Do you agree with or identify with their "skinhead" lyrics, image, and attitude?

NFA: That is your opinion of A.F., it's not fair to assume mine is the same. I can sight numerous A.F. motions against violence and elitism. Let's discuss N.F.A, we're not skins or Agnostic Front, we just play a song, and I've stated my interpretation of its lyrics.

NA: How does that fit in with your non-violent attitude?

NFA: This attitude you imply contradicts with my non-violent attitude. The attitude which I have encountered in my personal dealings with members of Agnostic Front was not parallel to mine, but it was not detrimental. Roger denounces nazism and violence openly, few "skins" have the courage to do so from the stage.

NA: How do you feel about the glorification of violence that occurs in the Judge and Project X 7"s?

NFA: I am against it, it is confusing and destructive. I feel or hope

that it is a tongue in cheek attitude, but I don't know.

NA: Are you willing to stand up against straight edge bands that have violent attitudes?

NFA: I'm honestly not sure exactly what you mean, but yes, I speak my views openly to the people in question, they are friends of mine. I get sick of this game though, they praise mythical violence that they do not perpetrate.

NA: Do you agree with the pro-American attitudes of bands like Warzone?

NFA: No. Nationalism is a method of division between equal beings. It bothers me.

NA: You Laugh speaks pretty negatively against mindless sex without love. Is this an indication of an anti-sexist attitude?

NFA: It is an indication of an anti-sexist and anti-reverse sexist attitude. It is not geared purely at males or females, but rather at promiscuous people in general.

NA: How do you feel about homosexuals?

NFA: Sexual preference is a personal issue, it is the business of the individual and not mine. Live and let live. Live safe regardless of your choice.

#### WHEN WILL IT END?

A VIOLENT TREND OF THOUGHT,  
AND THOUGH WE'RE IN CONTROL  
OUR JOY IS LOST.

WE MUST NOT BECOME LIKE  
THOSE WHO CAME HERE TO FIGHT,  
WHY SHOULD WE LET OUR JOY  
TURN TO A FORCE THAT WILL DESTROY?

WHEN... WILL IT END?!?!  
WHEN WILL ALL THE VIOLENCE END??

I HAVE SEEN A PASSIVE STANCE  
TURN TO PRIDE AND THEN ADVANCE  
INTO A STATE OF SOCIAL WAR,  
GOALS OF THE PAST, THEY SEEM NO MORE.

WITH BRIDGES BURNED WE CAN'T GO BACK,  
UNOBTRUSIVE DAYS ARE IN THE PAST,  
WE'VE SOUNDED OUT AND SO MUST STAY,  
AND DISREGARD PAST VIOLENT WAYS.

WHEN... WILL IT END?!?!  
WHEN WILL ALL THE VIOLENCE END??

# NO FOR AN

NA: At your Fenders show with Youth of Today you said some negative things about Uniform Choice. Could you elaborate?

NFA: I don't agree, again. I stated that we no longer saw eye to eye, but must deal with our differences privately rather than lead our followings into opposition. I think that because I mentioned them in anything other than plug or praise people consider this mention negative. The live tape will tell the story itself.

NA: Is About Face about any bands in particular?

NFA: It was inspired by the change I saw in an old friend but was directed towards all those who craft their identities in the name of profit.



NA: Where is the line between "selling out" and "keeping the faith"?

NFA: Selling out is not going on a major or even making money, selling out is forming yourself according to what you think people want.

NA: How far will No For An Answer go?

NFA: As far as demand for our genuine and spontaneous output will take us.

NA: Do you worry that a song like About Face will affect or haunt you in the future?

NFA: No, About Face is about surrender, I am not a whore. I am confident that the only places we are headed are places where they will accept us as is.

NA: What are some of the topics of other N.F.A. songs?

NFA: Not A Thing - vanity, sight judgement  
I Spy - brutality, mental abuse  
Rob's Song - sick inner-scene politics and "in" fighting  
Without A Reason - the tragedy of drunk driving  
Liar - liars  
Don't Look Away - self-righteous ignorance towards good advice.

NA: How do you feel about the division between straight edge and political bands?

## ABOUT FACE

TAKE YOUR PLACE!  
 A-BOUT FACE!

WHERE ONCE STOOD CONVICTIONS IN THINGS YOU WOULD SAY,  
 THERE NOW STAND RESTRICTIONS,  
 YOUR MIND SOLD AWAY,  
 YOU ONCE WERE A SYMBOL OF TRUE STRENGTH AND HEART,  
 BUT NOW YOU'RE A WARNING OF WHERE THE SICKNESS STARTS,  
 YOU STOOD THERE AND PREACHED INDEPENDENCE AND FAITH,  
 YOU TALKED OF COMMITMENT THEN MADE AN ABOUT FACE.

TAKE YOUR PLACE!  
 A-BOUT FACE!  
 I HOPE YOU ENJOY THAT PARADE OF FOOLS.

"DUDE, WE MADE \$15,000 ON TOUR...  
 IF WE DON'T MAKE \$40,000 NEXT TIME I'LL BE FULLY BUMMED...  
 I MEAN WHY SHOULD WE PLAY TO SCUMBAGS ANYWAY?  
 WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE TOP!"  
 (WHO CARES!!!)

YOU INSIST THAT IT'S PROGRESS TO CUT OUT YOUR HEART,  
 THEN POST IT FOR HIRE AND CLAIM THAT IT'S ART,  
 BUT FREEDOM OF STATEMENT IS WHAT ART'S ABOUT,  
 NOT SOFTENED COMMITMENTS DESIGNED TO PLEASE THE CROWDS,  
 BELIEFS AND CONVICTIONS ARE ON SHOW TODAY,  
 IF YOU WON'T PRESENT YOURS, SIT DOWN AND TAKE YOUR PLACE!

other things they say.

NA: Do you think that straight edge is total abstinence from the vices, or just having control?

NFA: Straight edge is a slang term stemming from a song that mocked drug abuse. I feel that it suggests total abstinence.

NA: Does the band look down on non-straight edge people? Is that bad?

NFA: No, we do not. Yes, it is bad.

NA: What makes you most happy in life?

NFA: Paula's smile, cooperation between

# ANSWER

NFA: It's sick, and it's the fault of those who get too caught up in group identities.

NA: Does the band have any political views?

NFA: They differ on most issues, but all members are opposed to apartheid and conscription.

NA: Who is your preference for the 1988 presidential elections?

NFA: Jackson.

NA: How do you feel about the way Half Off slams straight edge?

NFA: They would be nothing without it. I have good friends in that band and I can't help but wonder why their true vibrations have not shown through more in their product. I feel that it is a needless fuss and it overshadows the



strangers, a sense of effectiveness,  
and loud music.

NA: What's next for N.F.A.?

NFA: A 12" on an undecided label.

...Well, hopefully this interview has highlighted the intelligence that lies at the core of No For An Answer. I think that it does, and I also think that their combination of intelligence and power driven music makes for a band that deserves praise. The punk rock scene needs more bands with their integrity... - Kent

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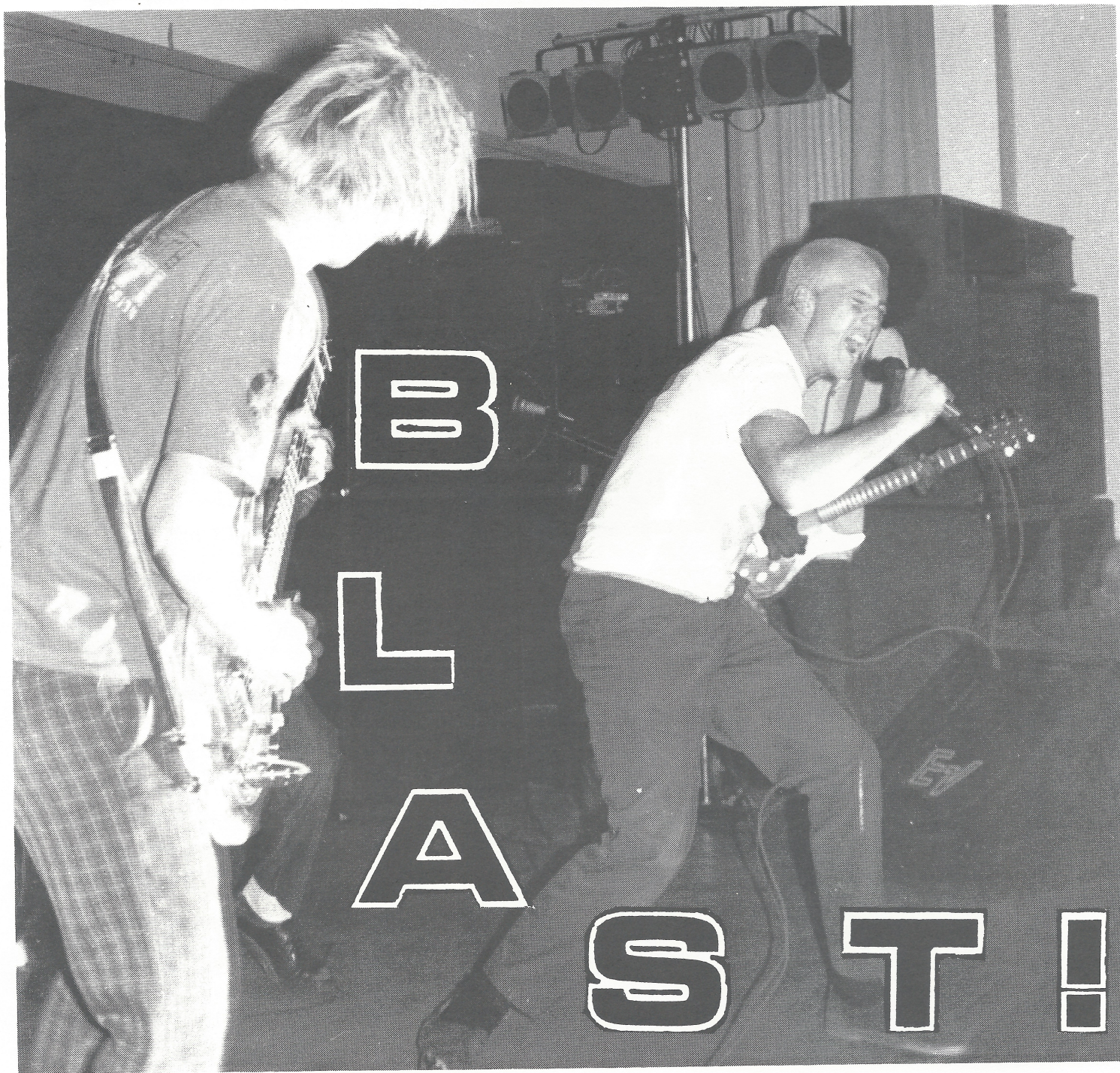
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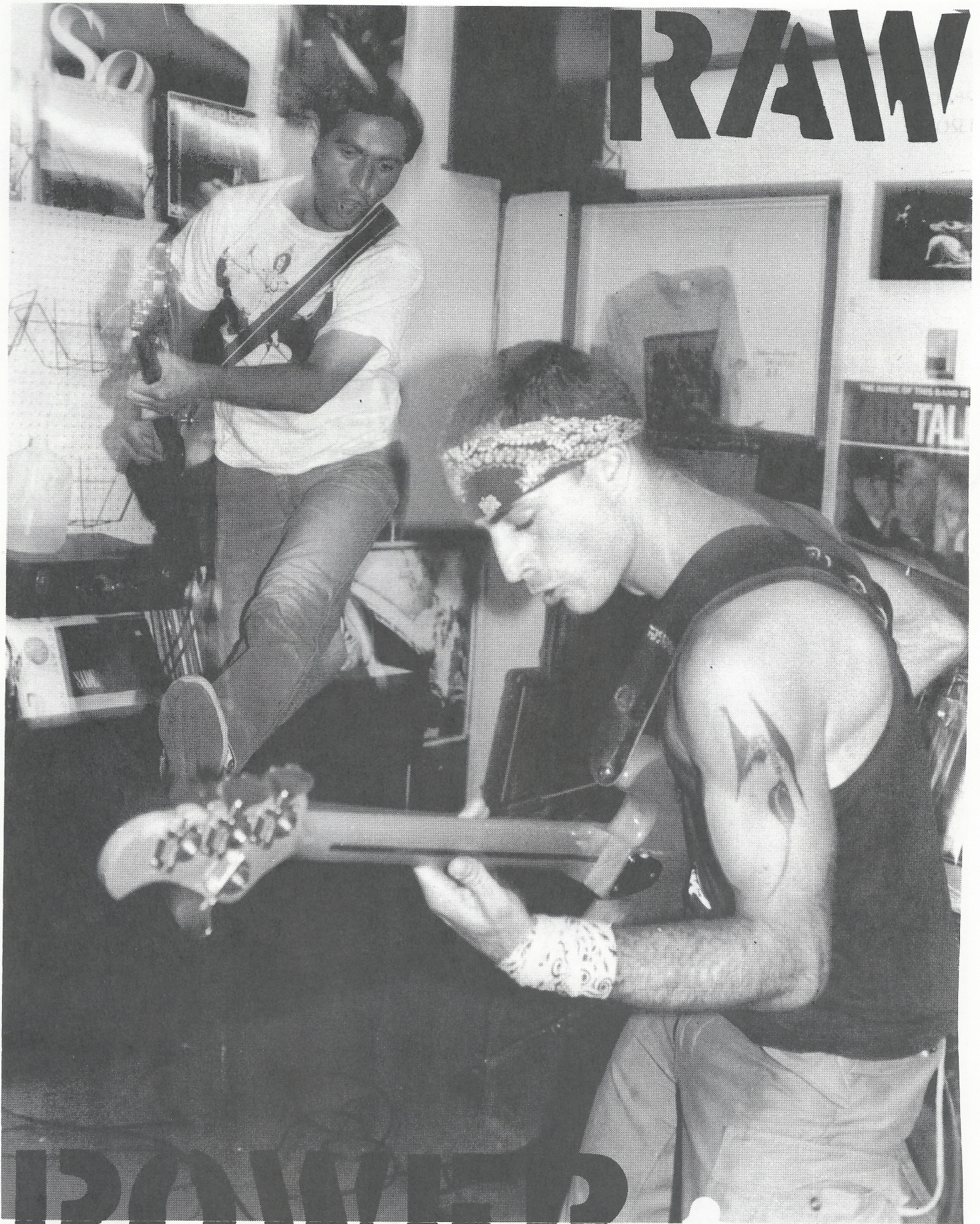
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# RAW



# POWER

Photo: McClard



# YOUTH OF

On Sunday, July 24th I got the privilege of hangin' with Ray Cappo, the throat of the world's premium hardcore band. This is the resulting product of that encounter. He had a lot of things to say, most of which were great, but like all people we sometimes saw things differently. So before you cast Youth of Today into the fire, read and know what they are about. But please understand, Ray is not Youth of Today nor No Answers. He is himself and in that he oversteps our boundaries. Be thankful that we are not all the same... - Kent

KENT: I'm interested, and don't take this wrong, you signed to Caroline for a hunk of money and I'm just curious about this because it is a lot of money for a hardcore band.

RAY: But when you think about it though it's not that much money, although it's a lot compared to what most bands get. I mean most bands should be getting this these days. For the longest time hardcore bands have been getting totally fucked over by record companies. So in actuality the bands do sell 15,000 records and stuff like that. Caroline gave us a certain amount of dollars because they knew we were going to sell a certain amount of records, and though it seems like a lot we're going to achieve... not only are they going to give us that money up front, but they're going to end up giving us royalties because we're going to end up selling more than the money they fronted us. Now it just seems like more companies realize, I don't know maybe they always realized, but it just seems like bands are actually getting paid for what they've been selling.

KENT: Yea, it just seems weird to me because right now we have a lot of questions about like what Uniform Choice is going to be like now and what a lot of bands are going to be like. There's a lot more emphasis on trying to get money instead of trying to achieve something.

RAY: Well, with Youth of Today we've never had it in mind to achieve money. That was never a reason to set up. If I wanted to make money I wouldn't play hardcore. I'd be a waiter in a restaurant or I'd go to college and try to be some whatever. But with Youth of Today I can honestly say that we started because we had a message we wanted to say. The goals of the band: we had a message we wanted to say, we wanted to go on tour, and we wanted to put out records. These are the things we did and if money came our way, o.k. Now on this tour we're headlining and you know it's weird for us to headline a show in a state we've never been and have people come. For us who've been kicking the shit around for three years we've always been the opening band, and you know, fuck man, we've played plenty of shows getting \$50 in front of tons of people. It's just natural progression. Now we're finally in a position with our new record to really make choices. A lot of bands will just sign with anyone to get a record out, but that's not us.

KENT: Did you get full rights over art, production, and everything on the record?

RAY: Oh yea, it wasn't like Youth of Today really changed or anything. If we were on Joe Basement's label or Caroline it wouldn't matter. I told 'em I wouldn't sign with a label if it was going to make it look metal or commercial or something like that. I mean all of our art work we chose, and the music... shit man, the music... you can tell there ain't nothing watered down. We didn't try to become some big commercial crossover.

KENT: Why didn't you just put it out on Revelation? Just for the reason that you could get more out?

RAY: No, just because Revelation is like me and my friend Jordan. It's not even a full time thing, we got so much shit going on, and I neglect my job at Revelation because I'm always on the road. Jordan isn't like he does this label full time, it's a part time hobby for us. He works full time and goes to school full time. And I just pile everything on his door step, "Here Jordan, do all of this shit." He lives in New Haven and I don't even live there. I live in Brooklyn. So I have to help him out in that way. It's hard for me to help him. In that sense doing it on revelation... it was going to be a big record, number one. Revelation has so much shit up its ass to do. Anyone who knows anything about Revelation knows that we have a bunch of records out right now and it's even hard to keep up with those. When you do an independent record label that's what it is, an independent. It's one or two guys trying to do mail order as a part time hobby and stuff. So with Youth of Today we wanted to go on tour and stuff. If we didn't sign with Caroline or someone who really knows how to run a record label, which I don't really. Then we weren't going to be able to go on tour this summer.

KENT: How does Youth of Today feel about what's going on with Warzone and like Sick of It All and all of these bands that are getting some bad press and coming out like new front skin bands?

RAY: Well Sick of It All aren't a skin band.

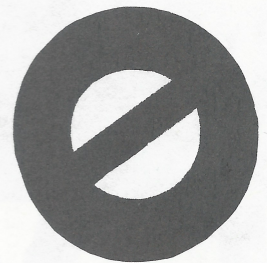
KENT: O.K., but you know they're getting that kind of a label.

RAY: I didn't hear that Sick of It All was, but Warzone gets that label cause that's what they call themselves. What I think of that?

KENT: Because I know there's that new song on the new album...

RAY: Yea, "I Wanna Live Free." You're right. What do I think about that? I never took a stance for blind patriotism. I think it's dumb. I think the people who are the most patriotic, the people who care the most about their country are the ones who are actually protesting or fighting for something they believe in, fighting for freedom. But a lot of times these blind patriots will just say, "Hey, these are fuckin' commies," you know?

Ray 2 Day - Throat  
Porcell - Guitar  
Walter - Bass  
Sammy - Drums



# TODAY



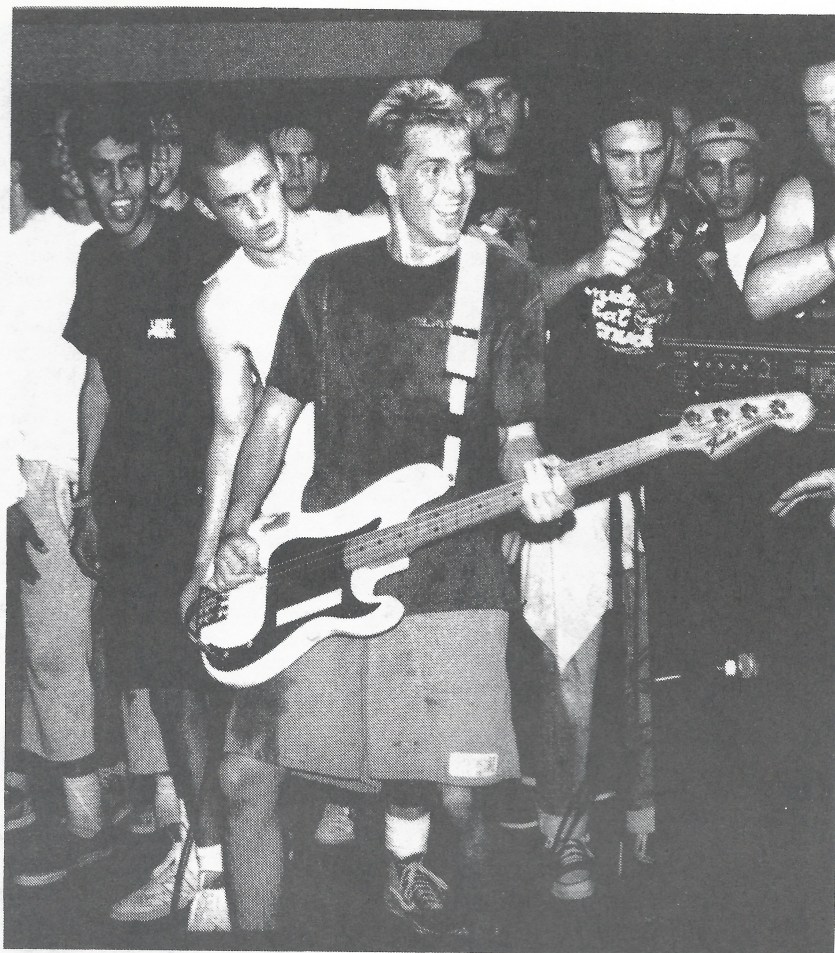


Photo: McClard

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you're responsible for everything you say, and whether Project X did it as a joke, which they did, a lot of people take that to heart. I told them that they're stupid for doing it, and I was really hurt that they did it. That "Straight Edge Revenge" used to be a Youth of Today song a long time ago, and we just cut it because it was too dumb and just too stupid.

KENT: It sounds good, but they're just too chuck full of a hard ego type of thing.

RAY: It's bogus you know? It's not like these guys are real hard and tough. I mean I like Judge. Judge is more like a real band. Project X is just like four guys just fuckin' around, trying to be more straight edge then now. But anyway I really hate it. But actually Judge is the band I like, but everything those guys did, I told them to their faces what I thought. I like Judge, but I don't like a few of their lyrics.

KENT: They've actually been playing around? I wasn't sure if they were actually a band.

RAY: Yea, a few shows.

KENT: So Youth of Today doesn't want to get cast into the whole militant type of a thing?

RAY: No, but Youth of Today is militant straight edge in a personal sense. There's no good coming out of alcohol and stuff. I mean to try to act violent about being straight edge is just as stupid as the people who drink alcohol. Don't you think?

KENT: Yes. What about bands like Slap Shot that are coming off as tough?

RAY: It's ridiculous. These people are all pretenders. They're all pretending to be tough guys. I know those guys. They're not tough. I like Mark MacKAY a lot. He's their drummer, and he'll say the same thing about Slap Shot that I will. Everyone who knows Slap Shot knows where their coming from. People

KENT: Yea, I have the Don't Forget The Struggle, Don't Forget The Streets album, and it comes off that way. They got these songs like "Fighting For Your Country..."

RAY: Ray (Warzone) knows that that's something I don't believe in, and although I get along with those dudes I definitely don't 100% agree with everything they say...

KENT: I think Youth of Today is getting some bad press because of that. Because like Maximum Rock 'nRoll has a bit of a chip on its shoulder toward you. The review of the new album wasn't exactly good and it wasn't exactly bad.

RAY: Every record in review in MRR has always been like that. Not exactly good, not exactly bad for us. I don't know what I could do to actually please them, not that I do go out of my way, but I'm just curious about what they want. I write a song about vegetarianism, and a song about anti-patriotism, and it's a pretty strict hardcore album, and they still slag it. God forbid I wrote a metal album or some stupid patriotic lyrics.

KENT: Yea, I was amazed because personally I think it's the best album to come out this year.

RAY: Personally, I think they would like it, but whether they like it or not I don't give a shit, but I think they would like it.

KENT: I was surprised that Tim Y. didn't review it because I've written to him and he said that he likes you, and he seems to like Youth of Today...

RAY: Yea, let's get off of that subject because it's only one magazine.

KENT: How do you feel about the Project X and Judge singles, and it seems like a lot of straight edge bands have come out with big chips on their shoulders, which isn't very healthy.

RAY: I think it's ridiculous. I think it's stupid. I tell them whenever you get on stage

## POTENTIAL FRIENDS

Here I sit so shy  
Wondering what's going through  
your mind,  
or what you're even like  
as time ticks quickly by.

A life so short, incomplete  
so many people I'd like to meet  
Feeling awkward, afraid  
Potential friends I could've made

Why do we keep to ourselves  
and dare not leave our shells?  
Let our feelings and emotions blend...  
we could be the best of friends.

like that are pretenders. They want people to think they're cool. It's just ego problems. They're hung up on ego.

KENT: Is vegetarianism going to be a bigger and bigger thing for Youth of Today from this point on? It seems like it's picking up as the fourth dimension of straight edge.

RAY: I think it's probably, well maybe not more important then drinking and drugs... well, yea, it probably is more important. To me it is. I would much rather see myself drink a beer than kill a deer, something like that. Although I don't agree with either one, but when something is losing its life it's more important. That's why I always stress it, and play that song "No More" and pass out literature.

KENT: One of the biggest complaints about straight edge bands is that they get stuck in this rut and all they sing about are the same things. Is that something you can see the band doing?



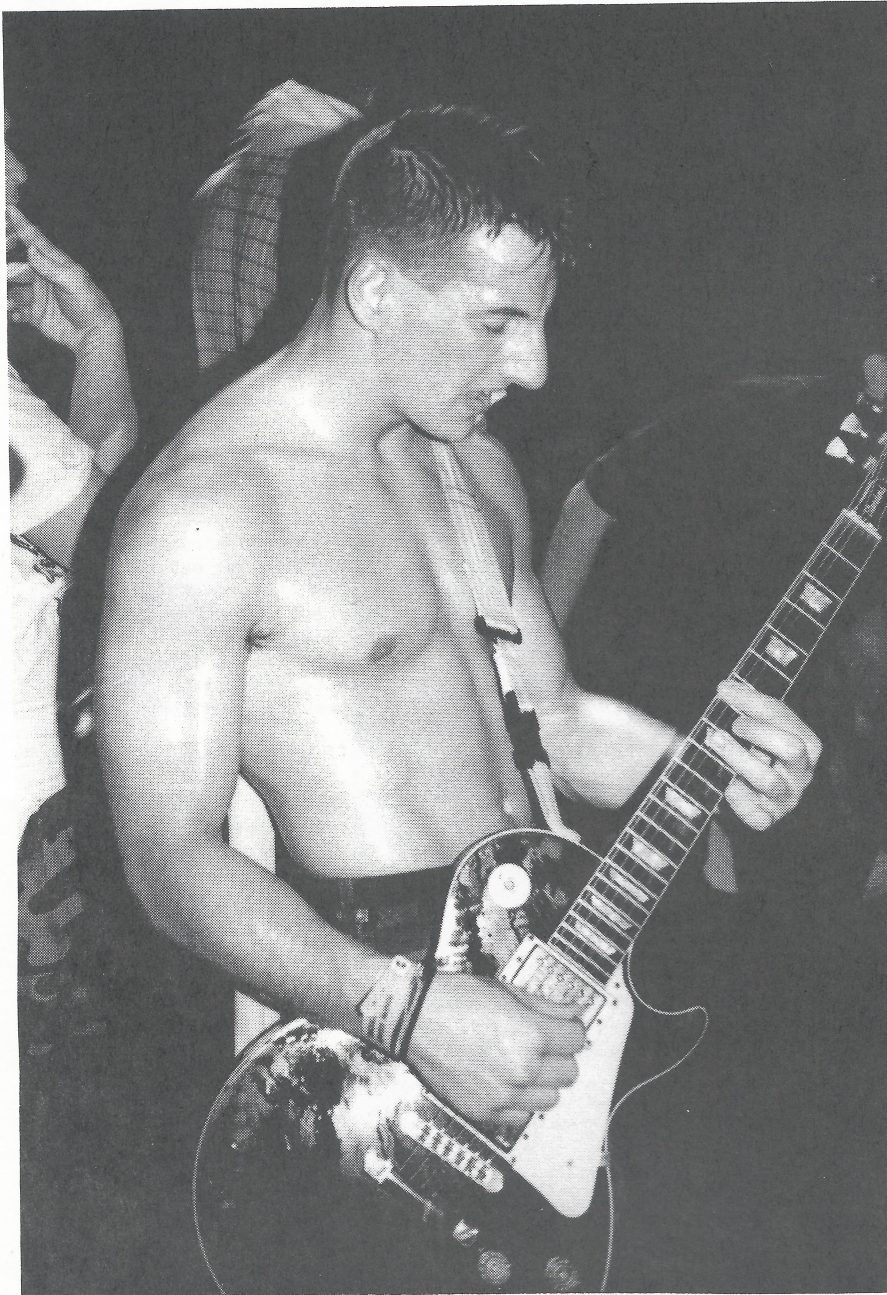


Photo: McClard

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lack. You're fucking with feelings and fucking with heads." That's what you do when you're having sex. That's about casual sex. You're just in bed with a person, what does she think? Does she like you, do you like her? You don't know. You're fucking with her feelings and your feelings. You're fucking with her head and your head. Live for the moment, this is the way we think now a days. Live for the moment, get our rocks off as soon as we can... get drunk, get our initial pleasure, and then worry about the repercussions later.

KENT: What about a sexual relationship that involves a higher form of love? How do you feel about that?

RAY: You're talking to Ray Cappo not the band here.

KENT: True, definitely true.

RAY: After lots of thought, I don't agree with it. I don't wanna have anything to do with it until I get married.

KENT: But that's what I'm saying. Like when you're married you will hopefully be in love with who ever you marry so it's a different kind of thing.

RAY: No, it's not really. I say when you get married you are still forced with the same problems. Sex for love? Sex for procreation, or sex for getting your

RAY: I don't know. Do you think the new album deals with it too much?

KENT: Well, there's two songs that kind of do, but I guess they only do in a very obscure way.

RAY: I don't know. I don't really think I do especially. When I write the songs I make sure that the topics haven't been touched on before.

KENT: It's important to always remind the newer people so that they don't forget.

RAY: Yea, with "Keep It Up" that song is more directed towards myself. A lot of times when I write songs they're directed towards myself. Although I say, "You, You, You..." Like that song "Understand" on the record. I think anger is a bad thing, although I find myself being caught up in it or something like that.

KENT: I thought that song was a really realistic approach to violence because it's stupid for us to deny that we don't get mad and that we don't have it in us. I mean the anger is there, we just have to learn to control it...

RAY: Not even control it. You have to realize why people act the way they do. And if you can understand that then you won't have to get in fights anymore because you understand that, "Oh that's why he's acting that way. He's got an ego problem. He wants to come off tough. He's got something to prove to himself and his friends. He's not really a bad guy, he's just really caught up in that ego and it's really upsetting him." I mean look at him he's all tense, he's not calm. Look at him, he's so tightened. He's so hard, he's so full of hate. That's too bad. Even if I lose the fight he has to walk around with that body, you know what I mean? Just the fact... what's the point of getting in a fight with people like that because if I beat the shit out of him then what happens? He's still, or if he beats the shit out of me... the fact is that he's still walking around. He already lost because he's so miserable. What more could I do to that guy? He's living in a miserable body. That's pretty awful.

KENT: What about... I think sex is becoming another issue that's starting to push its way to the forefront a lot too. Do you guys have an opinion on that?

RAY: I personally, through experience, think that nothing good comes out of sex. It's mainly just this really lower emotion. It's usually most of the time not done out of love. It's done with real lower feelings. Real lusty feelings. And it's mainly a selfish type of a thing to get your personal rocks off. Let me just say the lyrics, "Casual act shows me the decency that you

rocks off? Just because you are married doesn't mean you can't rape your wife or just, "Hey you please me and I'll please you." Some kind of, "You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours" little kinky thing going. I don't know, that's my opinion.

KENT: Is the band pretty unified on opinions?

RAY: Pretty much. I don't know if they're as... And like I said I feel this way about sex because I've had a lot of bad sexual experiences that pushed me more in this way. I don't know if they're as militant as that but like I said, there's going to be a price whether it's venereal disease, unwanted pregnancies, bad population... that's the deal with that.

KENT: I was just reading an old issue of Run It and you were saying that you are into, not religion, but personal faith and God. Does that still stand pretty fairly well?

RAY: Yep, definitely.

KENT: What's the rest of the band feel like?

RAY: They're not really religious, but they know I am and they put up with it I guess because they have to. But yea, it influences my lyrics, definitely, and it influences every move I make.



(We went into a store and continued with a new topic.)

**RAY:** Well, "I'll never change the way I feel" from "Stabbed In The Back" shouldn't be taken as actually literal. Of course I'm going to change the way I feel, for the better I hope. Nothing major has changed. Things like that. I've wised up. I never tried, well maybe I did come off like I knew it all or whatever, but I've always thought I was trying to do something good. Now I just try to be a little more humble about it instead of so righteous.

**KENT:** Do you think you have changed a lot since Violent Children?

**RAY:** Yea. That was just a fun band that we did in high school.

**KENT:** I've heard a lot of stuff about some problem between you and Half Off, and I don't know... most of it's probably rumors. Any truth to that stuff?

**RAY:** That band's gimmick is to put down Youth of Today. That's the only thing that band sings about.

**KENT:** And yet they keep the same kind of beliefs, primarily they're all pretty straight.

**RAY:** Who knows... I don't really care. People like that are constantly, constantly putting down other people. I don't like people who are constantly mean to people like that. I don't know, I don't like that band because they're mean people. Not all of them actually, but the singer's got a really big mouth. Whenever I read an interview they're always like it's a Youth of Today interview. I always find stuff... if they don't like Youth of Today then fine don't buy the record, don't come to the shows, don't fuckin' harp on us or something.

**KENT:** A lot of criticism towards you guys is that you're the same kind of hardcore thing done over and over, and it's been done now for 8 years now, and we don't need anymore. How do you feel about that?

**RAY:** Don't buy the record, ya know? There's lots of shitty bands that are on the radio that have been doing the same shit for years. They're not breaking any new ground. There's an MTV band that sounds like Led Zepplin, I don't know their name, but they've been doing that for years. I don't

mainly because they're usually at straight edge shows and there's no fights, there's no assholes. There's no ego trips, and there's no kids passed out on the floor. There's no unnecessary bull shit when a straight edge band plays. Not like how a band like Exploited attracts a hardcore crowd. That's a big mix of people that includes a lot of assholes. But now a days when we play a place where we're pretty popular there's a very fine line between who comes. You don't see Nazis there, and you don't see drunks there...

## NO MORE

**Meateating, flesheating, think about it.  
So callous to this crime we commit  
Always stuffing our face with no  
sympathy**

**What a selfish, hardened society**

**so NO MORE just looking out for myself...  
When the price paid is the life of  
something else**

**NO MORE I won't participate!**

**We've got the power we've got the might  
to take what ever is in sight**

**Not even worried, it's an unfair fight,  
well we've got a heart to tell us what's  
right so...**

**Our numbers are doubling in '88  
'cause the people are starting to educate  
themselves, their friends and their families  
and we'll have a more conscious society.**

# YOUTH OF TODAY

like it, but what am I going to do? Tell them to break up? No, I won't but their record.

**KENT:** How do you feel about bands like 7 Seconds that have gone on to something new?

**RAY:** I like Kevin. I like where he's coming from.

**KENT:** Yea that's why even though I don't like their sound I still respect what they're doing.

**RAY:** Me too, that's how I feel.

**KENT:** Switching subjects, what's Sammy, 15?

**RAY:** Yea, he was in Side By Side.

**KENT:** What was the deal with the Pyramid and CBGBs?

**RAY:** There was no deal with the Pyramid and CBs in one sentence. CBs is a club and the Pyramid is a club. Neither club did anything to fuck up the other club, opposed to popular retarded belief. The Pyramid was something me and Raybies (Warzone) did because kids couldn't get into CBs anymore. They were getting carded all the time, they had to be 16 and over, really hassled. So we took advantage of this club right down the street. It was a great club, we had a great time, we had a great summer that year, 1987.

**KENT:** There's this huge resurfacing of straight edge bands...

**RAY:** I think it's great, as a matter of fact.

**KENT:** People say it's conformist...

**RAY:** Well look, here's a big one. Although I was very proud of this hardcore scene, that pride is something I've lost a lot of because everyone says the hardcore scene is a movement or something like that, but I think that's pretty much bull shit. Where's it moving? It's moving in every direction.

It's moving to right wing politics, left wing politics, to anarchy, to destroy, to getting drunk at shows, to straight edge. I mean that's not a movement. It's just a bunch of kids that like fast music and slam dancing and hanging out. So now I'm mostly just part of a straight edge movement. The kids I hang out with mainly are in the other bands and are straight edge bands, except for around New York

**KENT:** That's like at that Fenders show, that was amazing. It was so...

**RAY:** So big, and yet no violence.

**KENT:** Yea, it was great! And Fenders can be a blood bath mostly.

**RAY:** I know. That's because they have the right bands. Los Angeles is a big place just like New York and Connecticut. Scenes like that where we're big it's a very fine line. You're not going to see those assholes there usually because they know not to come. They know there's always shit going down when they come, and they don't have a good time. So it is good!

**KENT:** Do you guys have any plans to get more political?

**RAY:** No, I'm not a political person. I don't like politics. I have different ideas, but they don't stem from political things. People can call me left wing or right wing. I don't believe in illicit sex and I don't believe in a lot of things where people would call me a right wing Reagan lover. But I can fall into both categories. I don't know. I think of myself more as a spiritual person. Politics can always be argued and they have been argued since the beginning of time.

**KENT:** Do you write most of the lyrics?

**RAY:** All lyrics.

**KENT:** But you guys are, like you said, pretty tight?

**RAY:** Yea, I wouldn't really write anything that they didn't 100% believe in. Like I said, "What Goes Around Comes Around"... Even if they fuck around they know the deal. People know what cheap sex is. They know what illicit sex is. Everyone knows it, they just don't want to tell themselves.

(Topic changed, I don't know why.)

**RAY:** Sometimes I feel bad because I support communication but in a way I don't really communicate outside of speaking to people. I don't like write letters really. Although I read letters



I don't really write back because... I don't know... my mind is clogged. For one, I have the worst memory of all. I don't know, it's hard to be in a position where you meet a lot of kids everyday. Like on tour you pull into a town, you meet like 30 kids. They will come up and hang out with you. Really have a good time. Maybe really meet like 5 of them. Sit down and have a deep conversation with 5 of them, and say goodbye to everyone and try to get all of these faces and names and then the next day in another town you meet 30 new kids, same goes on the next day, and the next day... and although I love the fact that kids are enthused and stuff, I have a shitty memory and people get down if they see me and I'm notorious for this... meeting a kid and hanging out with him and really becoming a nice guy with him and not knowing his name or maybe just seeing him again and just forgetting I ever met him. Like in New York there's one kid I met one day. I always saw him around, one of those faces you always see around. So one day I said let's go out, and we're talking you know, let's go out and get some lunch or something. We had a nice talk and a really good time, and two weeks later my memory forgets that I ever went out to lunch with the kid, and I just put him back into one of those kids that's a nice kid that I never saw around. So I might not even say hi to him next time I see him. I might just like nod to him. So it's hard, because if you're not in a band it's easy to remember that, "Oh, that's Ray of Youth of Today." Like even Walter our bass player, we used to have this thing called feed the hungry. We used to go out and feed homeless people and stuff like that. And Walter used to come, and Arthur who is in Gorilla Biscuits and used to be in Token Entry, and Civ, singer for Gorilla Biscuits, used to come, and all 3 of these guys I always thought was 1 guy. I never realized they were all 3 different people. I just couldn't remember, I mean it took me years to remember which was which, and that they were actually different entities. That's just my problem.

**KENT:** A lot of people meet people in bands and they get like a cold shoulder or what they think is a cold shoulder, but you can't expect somebody to talk to every person for an hour when there's 30 people swamping you right after you play. I've done a lot of interviews and you have to expect that people are going to be tired and cranky. Every person can't be like, "Yea, no problem, I'll spend an hour with you."

**RAY:** Although I like to. Like you said, "Do you wanna do an interview?" I'm always down for interviews, I'm always down for meeting new kids and stuff, but sometimes I'm not really focused which is a problem. Anyone who knows me pretty good knows that sometimes I space out, or flake out. I got an answering machine, and I get tons of messages on it. If I did call back everybody and if I wrote back to everyone I would have no time for... maybe it's a cop out, but I would have no time to breathe. I would have no time to live my own life, or to get into my own situations. And it's not like I can really have a relationship with someone by the mail really, or by a couple of phone calls. It's sort of hard being in a band because everyone wants to know you, but it actually has nothing to do with being your friend, they just want to know you or say, "Yea, I know the guy from Youth of Today." You can only develop a relationship so far. It's hard to have friends and meet people and stuff like that.

**KENT:** It's the same thing with doing a 'zine, you get so many people writing in and they want to correspond on just about everything, and you only have so much time.

**RAY:** Really! God forbid I wrote one person back, and then what happens? You think you write someone back and you think the task is complete, but no they're going to write you back doubly.

**KENT:** I purposely delay like a month before I write back because if I write in 3 days I'm going to get another one in 2 weeks...

**RAY:** Which is nice that people are interested, but you know where I'm coming from. There's a lot of problems in being in a band. Also there's problems with me. Here's one, ego is something I've had a problem with. It's something I try to work on conquering, and then I have people coming up, "Oh, I love you guys. I've always wanted to meet you,"

things like that. It's hard to keep it in perspective. Then you have to answer up to rumors and crazy shit you hear on the road.

**KENT:** Have you gotten a pretty good response everywhere that you've played so far?

**RAY:** Yea, definitely. This whole tour has been much more surprising than I actually thought it was going to be. You know we play at cities we've never played, and shows are crowded and stuff. It's pretty exciting for me.

**KENT:** Does it seem like people are coming because they know you, or just coming because it's a show? Does it matter?

**RAY:** I think they know us, but it's weird, maybe... I don't know, sometimes when there's just a big name punk band kids just go because it's a show. Sometimes I feel like maybe they don't know us, but we are considered a big punk band. Who knows, because

let's face it there's not that many bands that call themselves hardcore that have... Hell, we have two albums and a single out, and most bands by their second or third album have changed directions.

**KENT:** That's not something you plan to do at all?

**RAY:** Ahgu, who knows? There's no real direction... I don't know. I like hardcore. It's a very strong music to put across a strong message. If I ever did change the style it would be in a powerful way, I think. It would be pretty powerful stuff. I could not see myself doing like a Dag Nasty Field Day thing...

**KENT:** Yea, that's awful. What about like the Rollins Band?

**RAY:** That's pretty powerful, and that's what I'm saying. If I was going to change I wouldn't be surprised if I put out a record out that sounded like that. But I would be surprised, like I said, if I put out the new Dag Nasty Field Day, or a new 7 Seconds record, or something like that. It's not really up my line. I'm not putting them down, it's just not me. When you put across a strong message you need strong music to back it up.

**KENT:** Yea, I think that's what 7 Seconds loses. It's great that they're cool, but I wonder if people really pay attention to what they're saying because it just becomes like music that you just listen to and don't really pay attention to.

**RAY:** Right, that's how I feel. Although stuff like Dag Nasty, or stuff like the Smiths or the Cure... although their music is nice and it's nice to tap your foot to, it really has no impact on my life. I'm indifferent to stuff like that. It's music that can motivate you to tap your foot and smile, but nothing more than that.

**KENT:** What are some new bands that you like a lot?

**RAY:** I like Gorilla Biscuits, Bold, Instead, Breakaway, and all the stuff on Revelation.

**KENT:** What bands do you have coming up on Revelation?

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Photo: McClard



**RAY:** The Bold album is coming out, and I'm also doing a single of just music I wrote and lyrics I wrote. Stuff that I really couldn't talk about in Youth of Today. Youth of Today exists in certain boundaries for me, although I agree with everything we say, it limits me to things. I wouldn't want to overstep my boundaries and say something that the rest of the band doesn't agree with. So I'm doing like this single when I get back. Actually, part of it is recorded already. It should probably be in a pretty nice package with some good inserts and stuff. The way I feel on vegetarianism and stuff like that.

**KENT:** Yea, I was really glad that vegetarianism came out in "No More." That's something that is an issue that should be there.

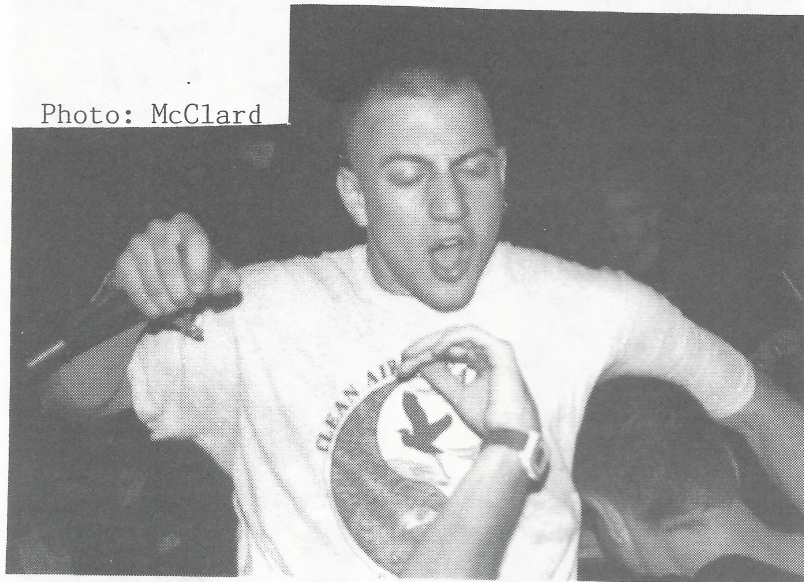
**RAY:** Yea, definitely. Especially in the hardcore scene because like...

**KENT:** It's such a place where kids can be addressed.

**RAY:** Yea, I know! Kids are so responsive to it too!

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Photo: McClard



I mean seriously a lot of kids pay attention. It's a trend or whatever. Like everyone says that straight edge is a trend or whatever. Vegetarianism is a trend right now with the straight edge kids. So, I mean it's a trend. So what!

**KENT:** Yea, that's what I say. There's so many of us around that have been into it for 6 or 7 years.

When does it stop being a trend? I get shit for it, but what the hell it's my life.

**RAY:** Maybe I got into it for a trend and who cares if kids try it for a month. And once you read and have some knowledge about it. It's like a tree with no roots. People who don't eat meat and don't read up about it, they can be swayed really easy. But once they read and their roots grow and they know the deal it's hard to go back to a meat eating diet.

**KENT:** Are you into more than health? You're talking animal rights?

**RAY:** Oh yea. The thing we have to think about with vegetarianism is that we have to stop worrying about ourselves and start putting out a little compassion for other things. We're so worried in this society about ego and ourselves, and getting our personal rocks off, and worrying about how we're going to be gratified. So red meat is bad for you, but it is also wrong to kill. We shouldn't be killing without any thought behind it. We're so lucky to be born in such a country that is so abundant with fruits and vegetables and stuff. We can have such a nice diet without taking the lives of others.

**KENT:** Do you have any plans for songs about pollution and stuff like that? I know you wear that clean air, clean water shirt.

**RAY:** Although I don't know where I got that shirt. Oh yea, a girl gave that to me. I'm not really... I believe... I hate to bring in religion again.

**KENT:** But that's where you are at.

**RAY:** Yea, that's where I am at, but the band doesn't like me to talk about it as Youth of Today.

**KENT:** Well, this is Ray Cappo. It's not necessarily Youth of Today. That always has to be taken into consideration.

**RAY:** Ok, so I believe my whole trip right now is to educate people for God consciousness. When people start thinking in terms like that then it sort of covers everything, vegetarianism - thou shalt not kill. It starts covering illicit sex. That way you don't have over population, bad population, crime and things like that. You don't have people worried about greed all the time and that's why the world is falling apart basically. People are so worried about themselves, always trying to look out for number one. They'll fuck over anything. They will fuck over the Earth, which we have to live with, they will fuck over animals, and they will fuck over people. Anything just so they can get ahead.

So they can be the most powerful. So, in that sense I'm not going to say anything about clean air and clean water, but I am going to try to educate the people. Another way that you can cover that is to just stop worrying about ourselves all the time. And I'm not saying I'm Mr. Perfect either. I've got a lot of problems that I'm always constantly struggling with. Sometimes people will say, "Who is this asshole telling me what to do like he's so high and mighty." If it appears that way then I'm sorry because I'm the least high person ever. I'm just another peer like it says in the lyrics to that song, "I don't mean to come off so righteous." I see things that I think can be corrected. Like some problems I see in myself and I sing about them. I think it does more good than not singing about them.

**KENT:** Oh definantly. So many people are anti bands that preach, but yet that's supposed to be what punk rock and hardcore are about (Crass, Minor Threat, Dead Kennedys, Black Flag, and S.S. Decontrol all had a message to preach). That's what I want to see. I don't just want a bunch of bands to entertain me. I want to be in some way educated or at least confronted.

**RAY:** Yea, I know what you mean. Like I said, being in my position people are really hard on me. I constantly have to take a lot of criticism. That's why we broke up there for a while. In December we broke up. When we reformed we got Sammy, we used to have Mike as our drummer. He didn't feel like he wanted to do it anymore. When we broke up I was basically really down in the dumps about the scene. It's like you get ragged on so much. And it's like everything I tried to do with Youth of Today, believe it or not, was an attempt to do good. I thought I was trying to do some type of good, but I stumble and people are always pointing fingers. I had only good intentions in mind, and it's sort of hard when deep down these intentions are there and maybe you do fuck up or something, and people come down on you really hard. It makes you feel really shitty. I did feel really shitty for a time, and I basically quit, and I just wasn't into it, and we broke up for a while. Then we got back together and that's what that song "The Flame Still Burns" is about. Because although you're really down... sometimes you bounce back even stronger... There's just so much shit you have to take. If you're going to say something... not to put me on the level of Jesus Christ, but say analyzing a person like Christ who told a lot of controversial things to a bunch of really debauched people. He was killed for it. Martin Luther King was killed for it. Youth of Today definitely doesn't match those two people, but we still say things that a typical hardcore crowd doesn't want to hear, and we get killed for it in our own way. We get slagged and we get shit talked about us, and we get physical confrontations. It's hard man. I'm pretty non-violent. I don't like to think of myself as a fighter, but I'm always confronted.

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I'm really sensitive, and being a vegetarian you become very sensitive to violence. Are you vegetarian?

**KENT:** Yes, I am, but I don't know if I can relate to that so much.

**RAY:** When I first became vegetarian I became sensitive to animals, and then you start to become sensitive to everything. I don't wanna kill an animal makes me even more not want to fight somebody. You start to relate it all together. So, in that sense I'm really sensitive when people get down on me or if I read bad things. I don't even read fanzines anymore because gossip... I get too upset, there's always stuff rolling around that I don't want to hear. It's not going to help me improve myself, sometimes it might actually, but that's what that lines about, "I know what I'm shooting for and I know how I've felt. I don't have to prove it to anyone because I already proved it to myself." I know what I'm shooting for. So, although, "Oh, he's a hypocrite, he said this, he did

**KENT:** It doesn't seem like the kind of song a hardcore band would write. It's really different, and it's great!

**RAY:** Yea, it is. I like it too. I wrote it on the bus.

**KENT:** It's the kind of stuff I would like to see more of. Especially as I get older because I want something a little more sophisticated.

**RAY:** I fully agree. And I think for a long time Youth of Today was motivated by these angry feelings, and I'm not really that angry with anybody or anything, and although there are things that I don't agree with... let us be joyous around hateful people, and maybe it will rub off on them. 7 Seconds taught me that lesson. We would always play with them and everyone would be in to our set, and we would be going off, and I would be like going nuts on stage, kicking things and jumping on people and throwing things around. Then 7 Seconds would play and everyone would be jumping and Kevin would be smiling and they would blow us away every time. We might have gotten

# YOUTH of TODAY



Photo: McClard

this," whatever these people think or whatever they want to think, I never really went out to prove anything to anyone. I went out to say a part and work on myself. If I motivated some people to do some good then that's great. I mean, I don't take any credit for it. I pass that on to the people who taught me.

**KENT:** Do you feel like you've accomplished something with Youth of Today?

**RAY:** Yes, I definitely think so, definitely.

**KENT:** Do you feel like you're a fairly shy person?

**RAY:** Sometimes I'm very bold and other times I'm pretty shy. I guess I'm sort of moody, I fluctuate a little... like that song "Potential Friends," it's about that. I have a big bone in my body that can be really bold or zealous. Like at a party or something I can be like the big mouth. Any kid that knew me in high school knows I was like a real big mouth kid. But, yes, I definitely have shy points too. I don't... it's hard to decide, like that song, it's about sitting with someone on a bus and you could be talking to this person, but instead you both just sit there and stare right in front of you. It sort of sucks, you know? So, that's sort of like a reminder: here I sit so shy, we're both thinking of each other, should we say anything, and time ticks by. Think of all of the cool people you could have met if you just opened your mouth.

a better response or something, but their audience is motivated to a higher level. They can motivate people to a higher level. All I can do is get angry, which is definitely a lower level. So that's why I try to motivate people by happiness. I like the way it works better, and I'm more of a happy person than an angry person because that's how I choose to be.

## WAKE UP AND LIVE

Wake up and live your life

See what there is to see

I won't sit around all day

'cause life means more to me

So many kids content

to sleep their lives away

But I'm gonna try

to make the most out of this day

It takes some motivation

It takes some love for life

Why just sit complacent

and let life pass you by?

Boredom is a choice

I choose not to make

unlock that door, strive for more

there's a better path to take

Wake up and live — breathe every breath

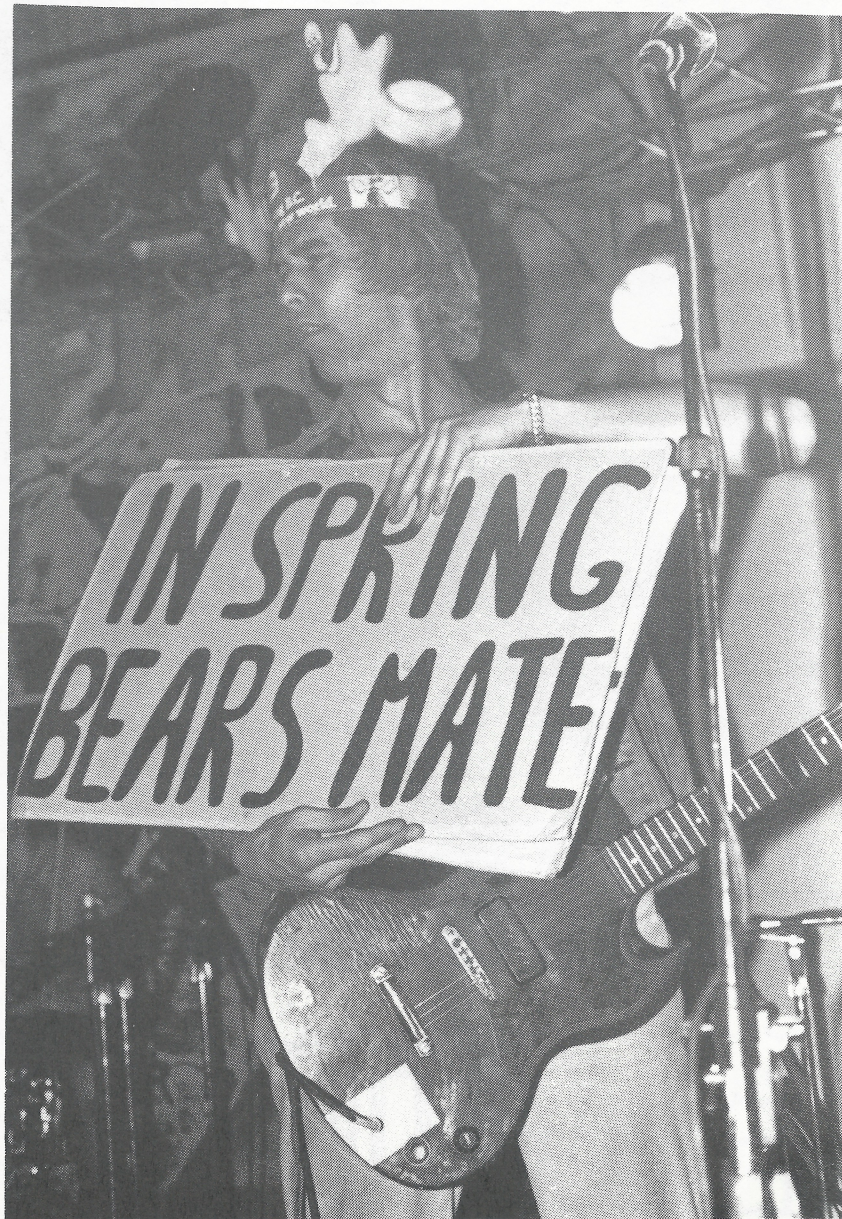
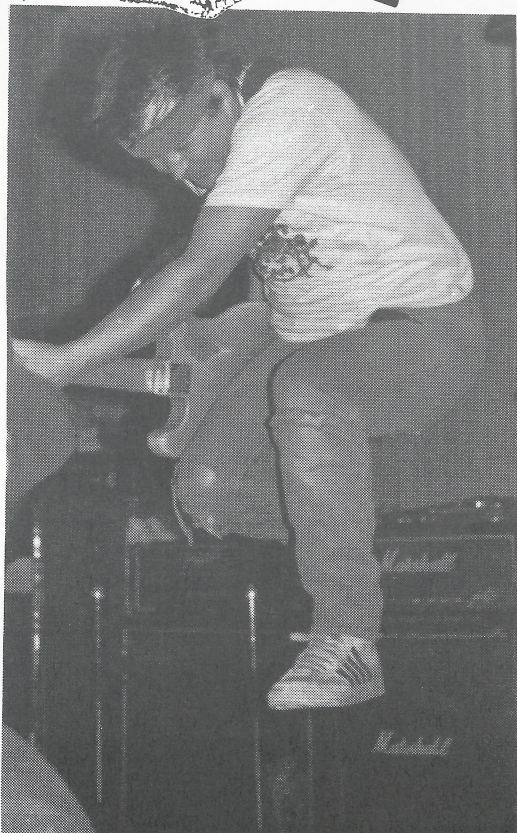
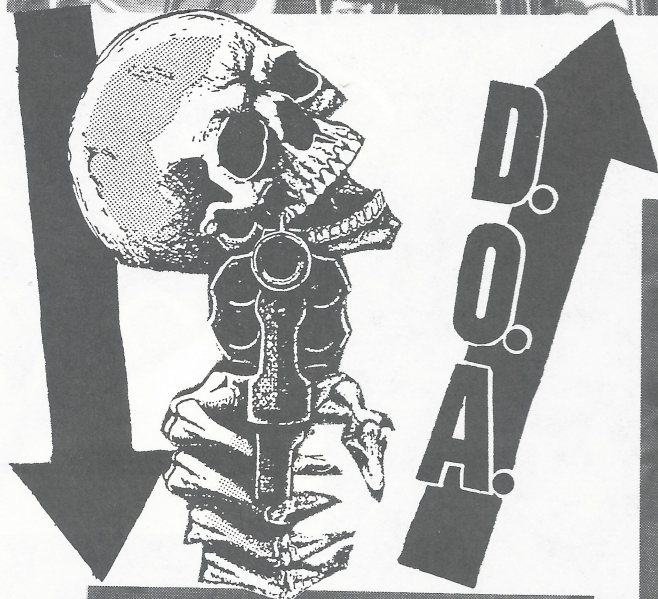
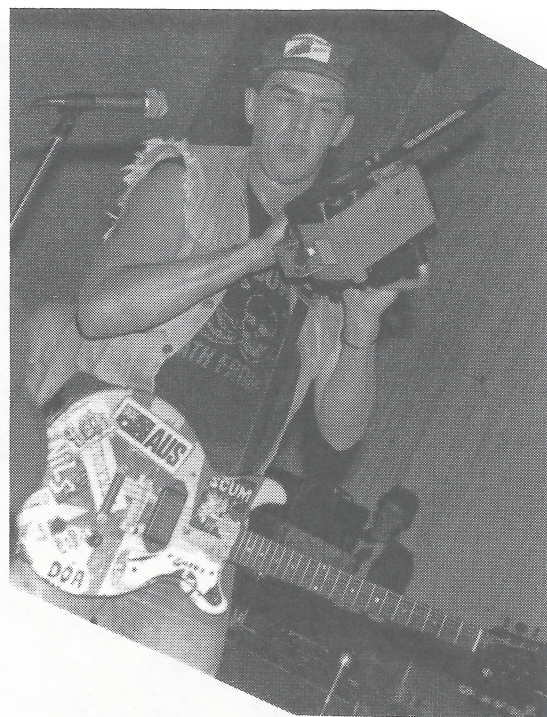
Wake up and live — until my death

Wake up and live so much to do

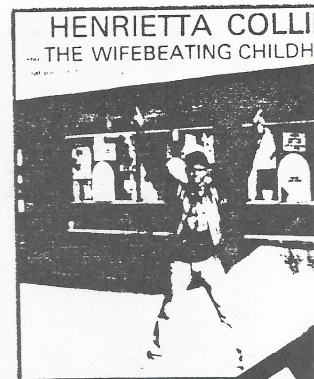
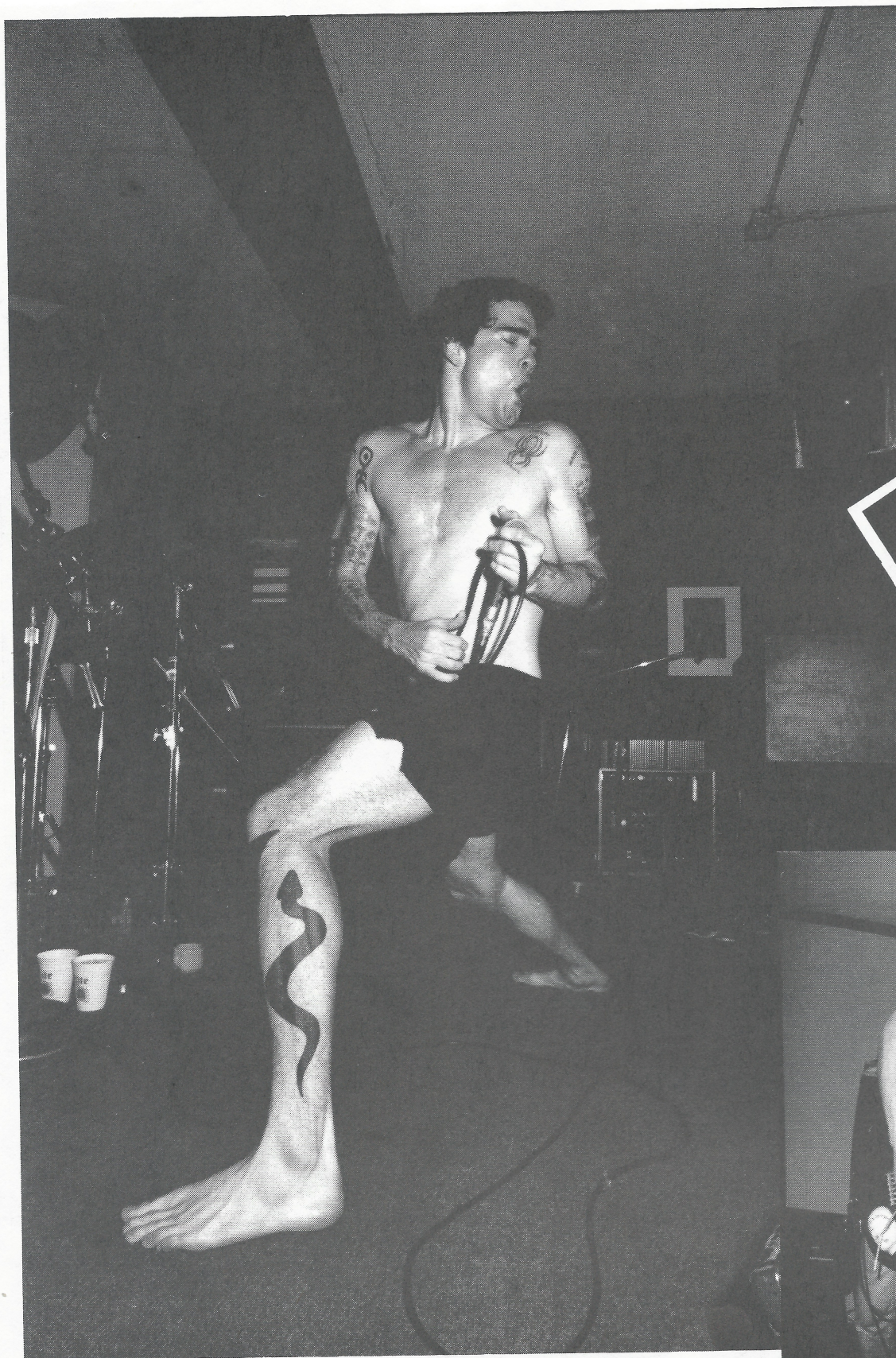
Wake up and live — all of you

c'mon... open your eyes.

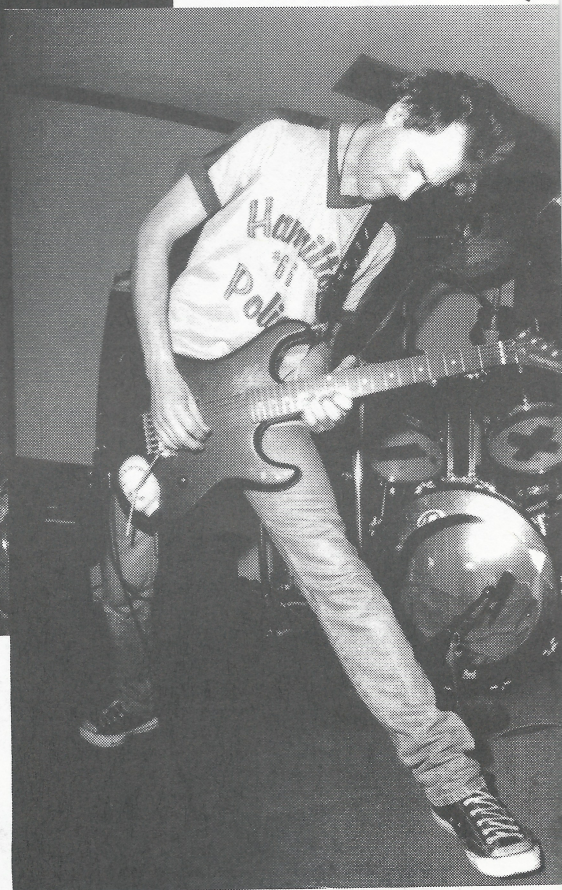








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Photos: Yuckovich

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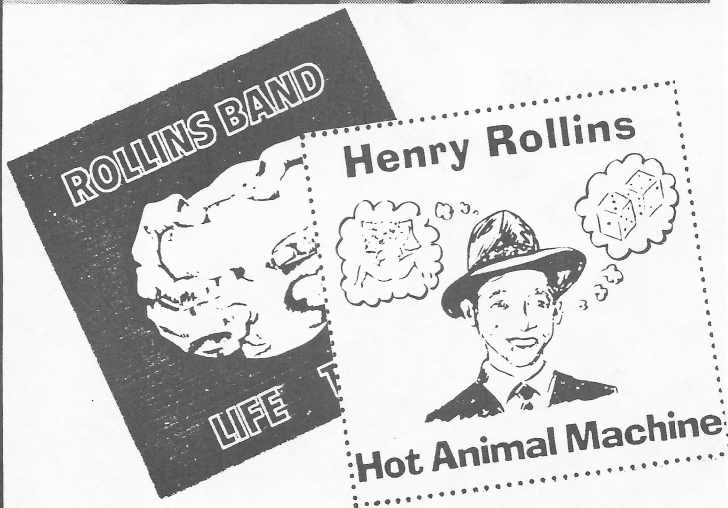
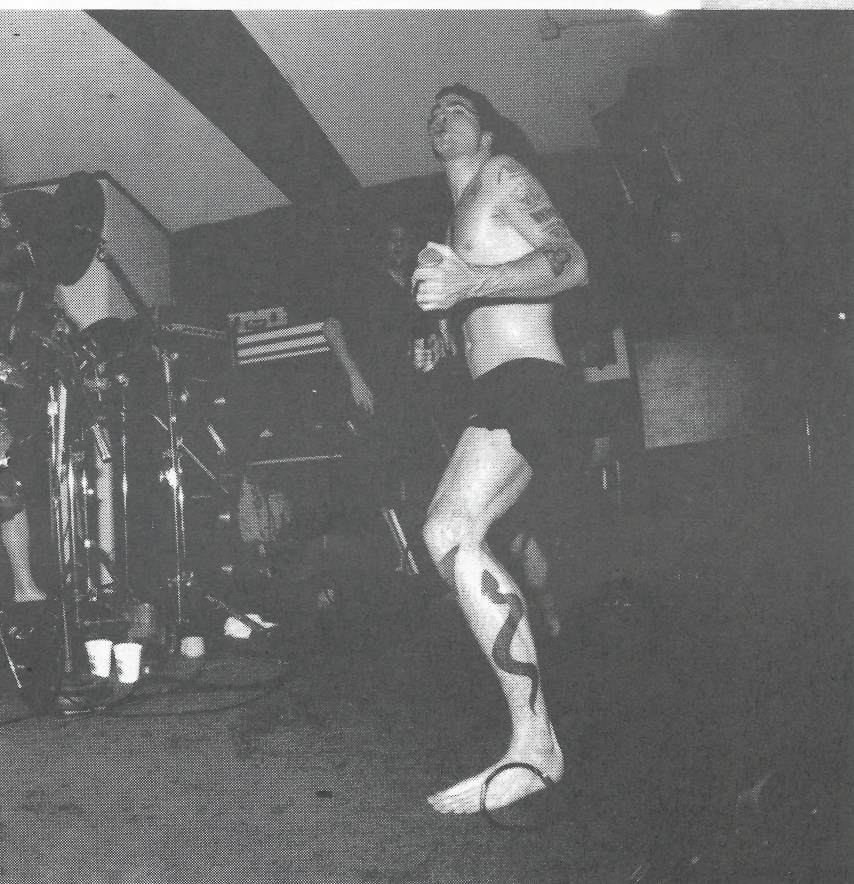


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# ROLLINS BAND

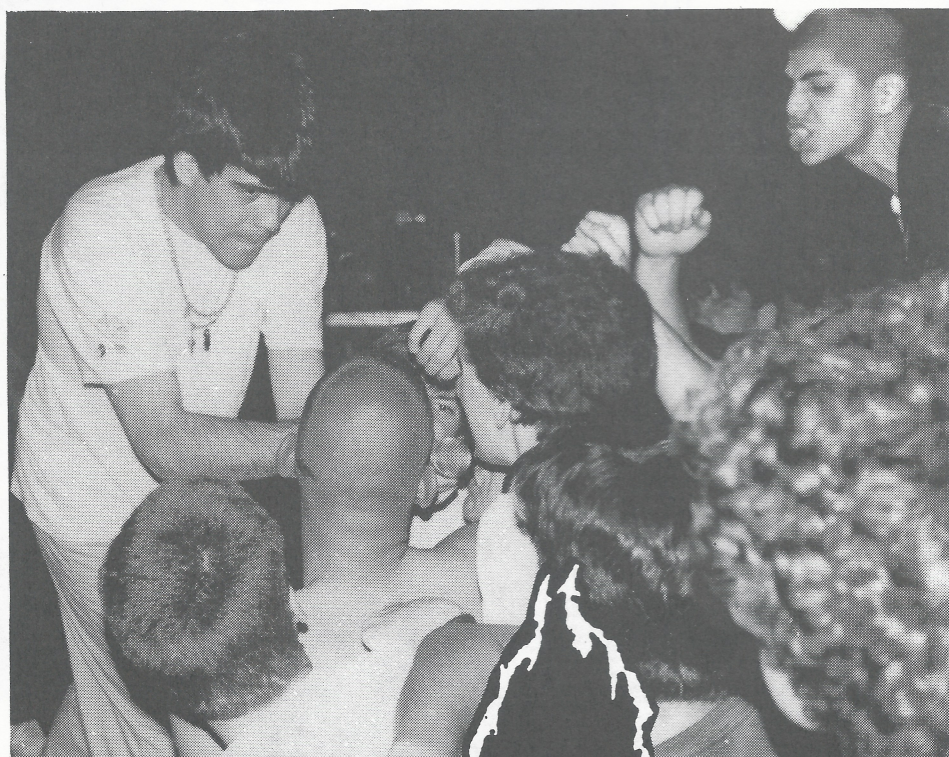
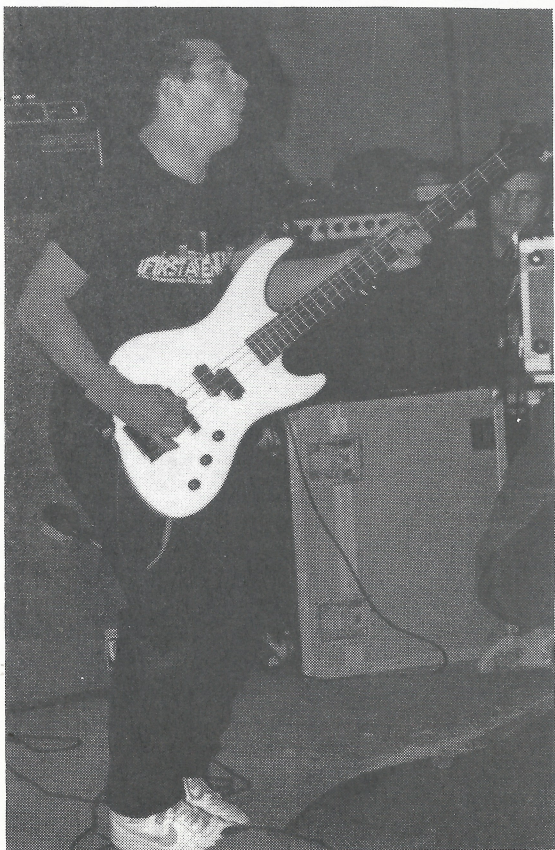
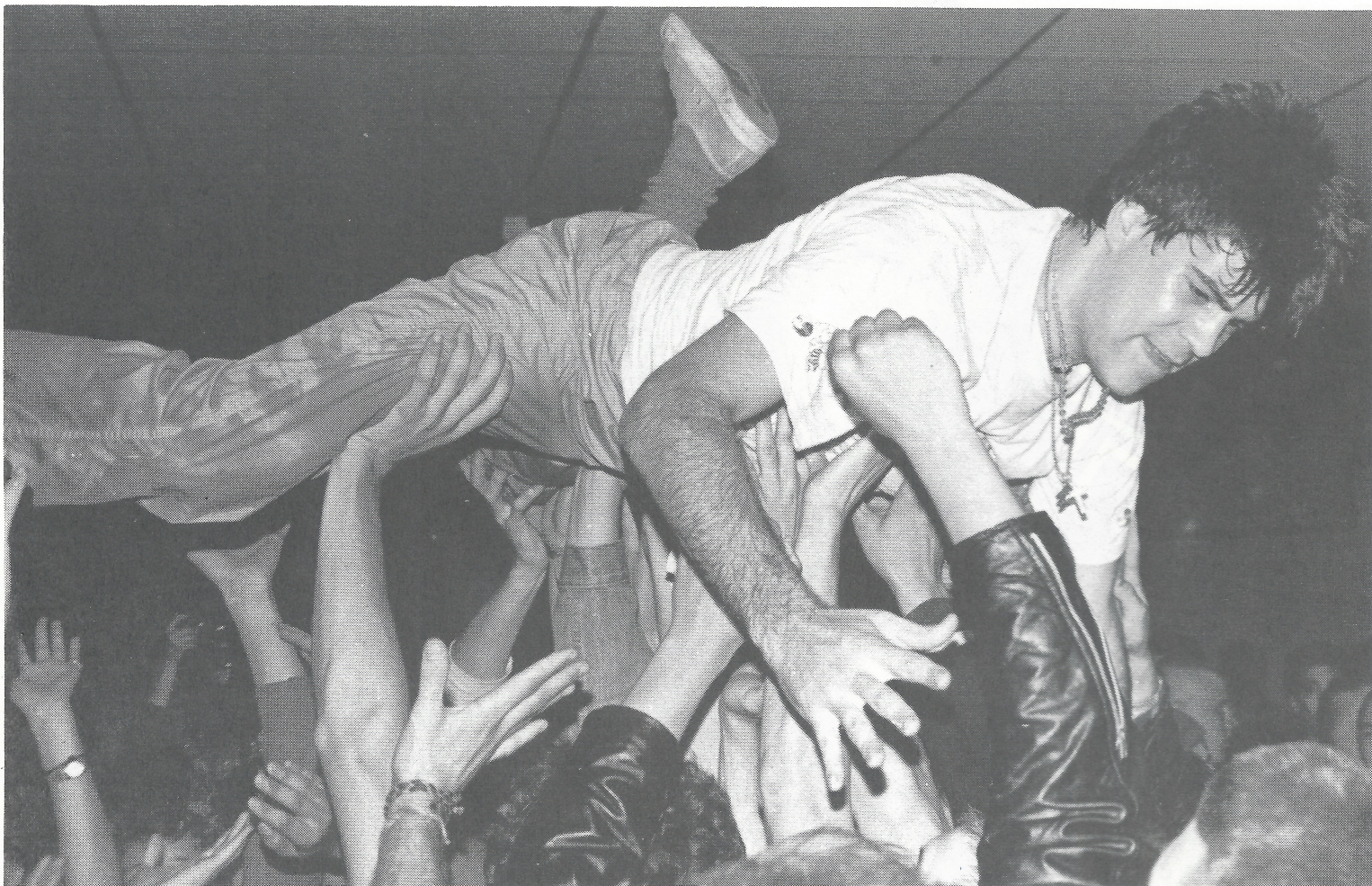
HENRY ROL

BIG UGLY MOUTH



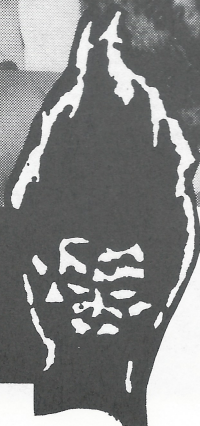
# TIME





Photos: McClard

DAG





# NASTY



## Values Here

What'd you say  
when I said  
we'll be here through tomorrow  
in my heart and in my head

Fear of failure  
Fear of reprimand  
Two big problems I've never had  
I never doubted what I have inside  
*what I have inside*

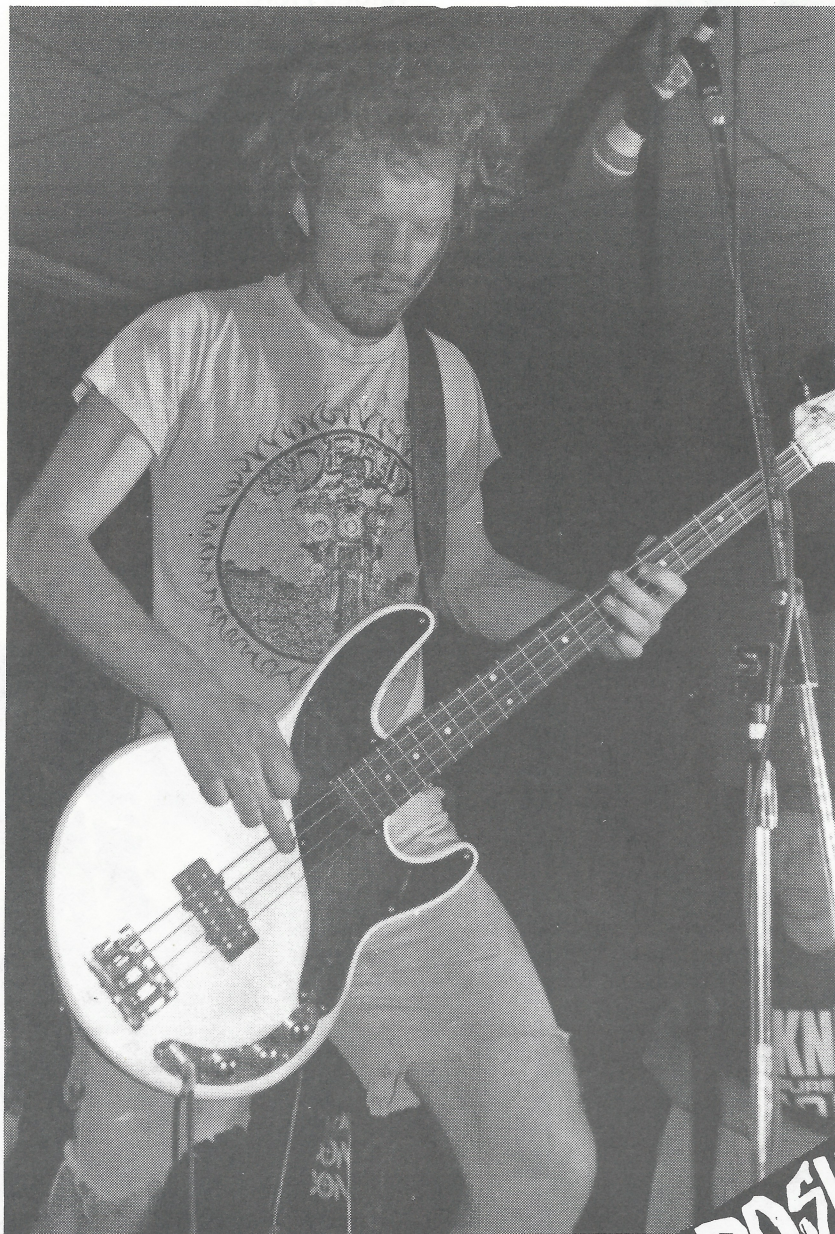
Values here  
in my heart  
and we'll be here through tomorrow  
Every day's a brand new start

Fear of failure  
Fear of reprimand  
Two big problems I've never had  
I never doubted what you had inside  
*what you had inside*

Fear of failure  
Fear of reprimand  
Two big problems I've never had  
I never doubted what we had inside  
*what we had inside*







Photos: McClard

PRAYER Pray for power, Your main weapon is mistrust, Pray for power, It's for power you lust, Molten minds poured into the mold, Filthy hands burning sinners cold, The bible says, so behold God's word enforce. We



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Int  
Make  
die o  
politic  
beast yo  
no use hi  
exclusive,  
Tortured or  
MAD WORLD Certain leaders  
build their tools of death, Saying it's all to keep  
the peace, They're saying one thing doing another,  
Both sides increase the scales of power, The deadly  
loads increase, Mad world we're living in a mad  
world, We're living in a mad mad mad mad world,  
As they sit down at the table, Trapping the...

I  
,  
and

lions  
og-  
breath,  
of glory  
children

killed by some  
CONSUMED The

fooling you, It's  
used, It's all

Rotting in Jail,  
Saying it's all to keep

the peace, They're saying one thing doing another,  
Both sides increase the scales of power, The deadly

loads increase, Mad world we're living in a mad  
world, We're living in a mad mad mad mad world,

As they sit down at the table, Trapping the...



# DIRTY ROTTEN



## ALL FOR NOTHING

Eyes full of hate, quick to condemn  
Just stay in the dark and wait for an end  
You don't really care, it's just give and take  
Keeping the distance, keeping it fake

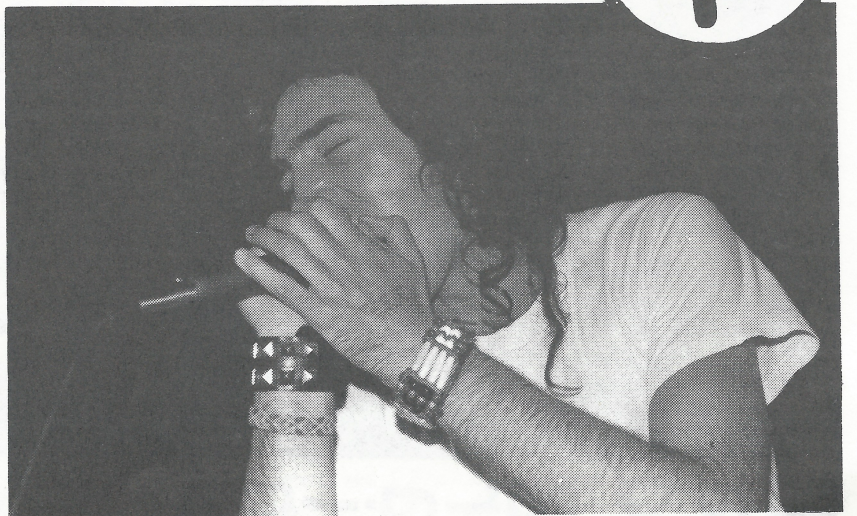
Waiting for something that doesn't quite jell  
Just cursing existence and hating your hell  
Blinded by anger you don't really know  
It's play by play as you put on a show

You're making your stand for nothing at all  
Delighted with problems, a chance for a fall  
Causing a scene to distribute the pain  
It's all for one, such a nice little game

Your time flies by with nothing gained  
Just talk of change and who's to blame  
It's the same old story we know so well  
With a premed ending you don't wanna tell

Still waiting for something you haven't found yet  
Just hide behind vices and a bunch of regrets  
Blinded by anger that won't go away  
Treading on water as you sink day by day

## IMBECILES



Photos: McClard

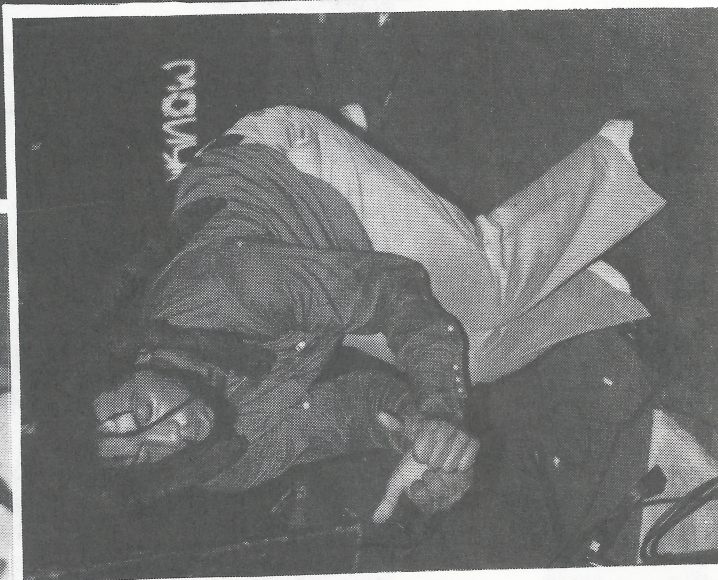




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Photo: McClard





Photos: McClard

# BAD BRANDS

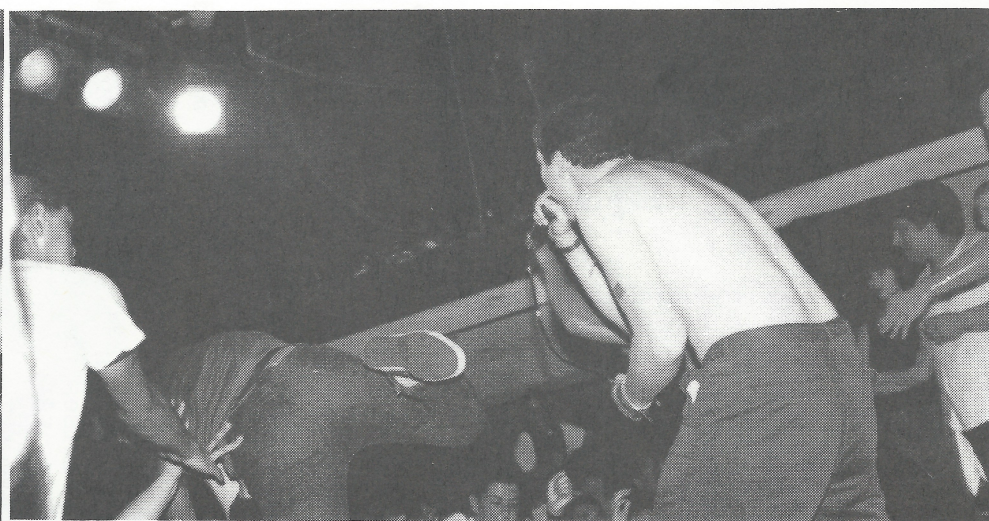


Photos: McClard

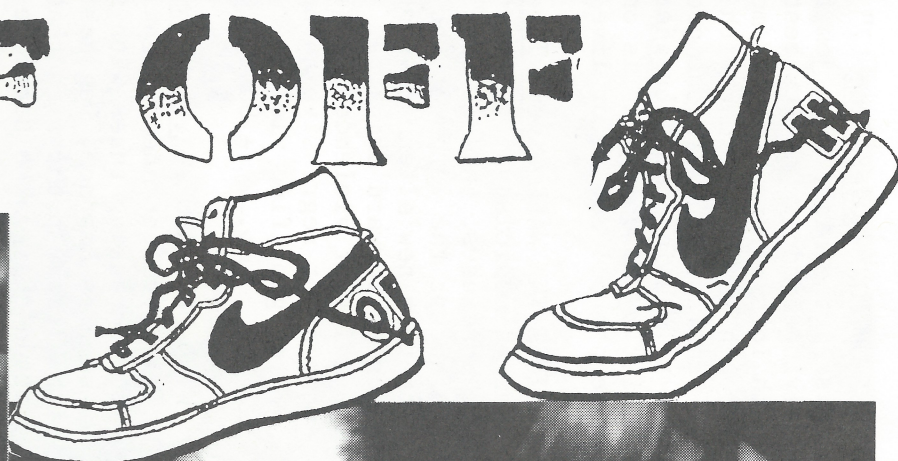


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# HALF OFF



Half Off is confusion. They are caught between two worlds. They have a link to the straight edge movement, and yet they seem to put the movement down with every breath. In some ways I find their lyrics to be refreshing, but sometimes I am left defeated. The straight edge movement is not perfect. However, the solution to its illness must be found within. Destruction will cure nothing. - Kent

Photo: McClard





# RECORD

## THORNS - Progress 7"

It's a rare treat to find something that is totally ripping on accident. This is that rare treat. The Thorns have a smack in the face sound which features great drums and gripping vocals, plus their brains work! Topics range from humanity's abuses against our mother Earth to the stupidity and senselessness of terrorism. All four of these songs hit hard on topics that are crucial, but the Thorns still manage to address these issues with a fresh vitality! Buy this thought or dwell forever in a stupid unintelligent t.v. style punk rock scene. And to think I bought this on a whim... - Kent

## D.R.I. - 4 Of A Kind

A great follow-up to Crossover! Maybe a little more metal than before, but it's still smoking even if there is a lot of guitar digressions. Kurt's vocals are as good as ever, and their attitudes are still true to form. As far as I'm concerned they're a hardcore band with a metal influence. Besides their intelligence makes up for any metal damage. I only wish that their following would pay more attention to their message. - Kent

## BIG GULP - Hard To Swallow 7"

So 5 guys from Connecticut get together to crank out some fast & fun tunes on such serious subjects as racism and fascism. Curiously enough the lyrics pertaining to these two are included on the insert but the others are left for our ears & minds to discern. Musically, my personal favorites are "Son of A Landlord" & "Tongue Tied" (especially the mosh part!), but as for the others any attempt to compare Big Gulp to the Adolescents (and the comparison has been made) would be utterly absurd. Besides, their ultra-sexist stickers and questionable

lyrics on another song lead me to wonder about their homophobic tendencies. - Sonia

## LAST OPTION - Over Time 7"

This little eight song gem features grinding and driving hardcore at its best! The music is fairly quick with lots of great slower mosh parts, and the vocals come through loud and clear with solid messages that are based in reality. This is one group of clean headed folk who see things in a much broader way. Lyrically speaking "Guilt By Association" is one of the best I've ever encountered! Get it or live to regret it... - Kent

## AGAINST THE WALL - Demo Tape

Charged musicianship with sensible, demanding lyrics. There are no excuses; this is a must have. Regardless of whether you accept the words or the lifestyle these guys offer, be open to a new alternative others may choose. Encouraging words on forward thinking, independent minds, and the stupidity of violence. After all, who would want to hear a song about regressive thought, a society of force-fed sheep, or glorified violence? Amazingly, lots of people do... - Sonia

## WIND OF CHANGE - ...A Promise Kept 7"

This straight ahead thinking band from Arizona churns out four cranking tunes with a musical approach that at times resembles Embrace, Dag Nasty, or Soul Side. This is matched with clearly put lyrics that have that great progressive attitude that makes hardcore so crucial. This all comes together to make a respectable 7" that can thoroughly be enjoyed. If they stay in touch with their promises they will surely grow into a thinker's cult favorite! - Kent

## VERBAL ASSAULT - Tiny Giants/More Than Music 7"

The B-side of this single shreds and hums with a musical style that is straight off of Trial, and the lyrics are exactly what I crave!! The A-side, however, is a slower almost reggaish tune that offers intelligence, but lacks the sound that Verbal Assault plays so well. This isn't to say that I don't like the song, I just hope that it isn't an indication of a musical change! - Kent

# REVIEWERS



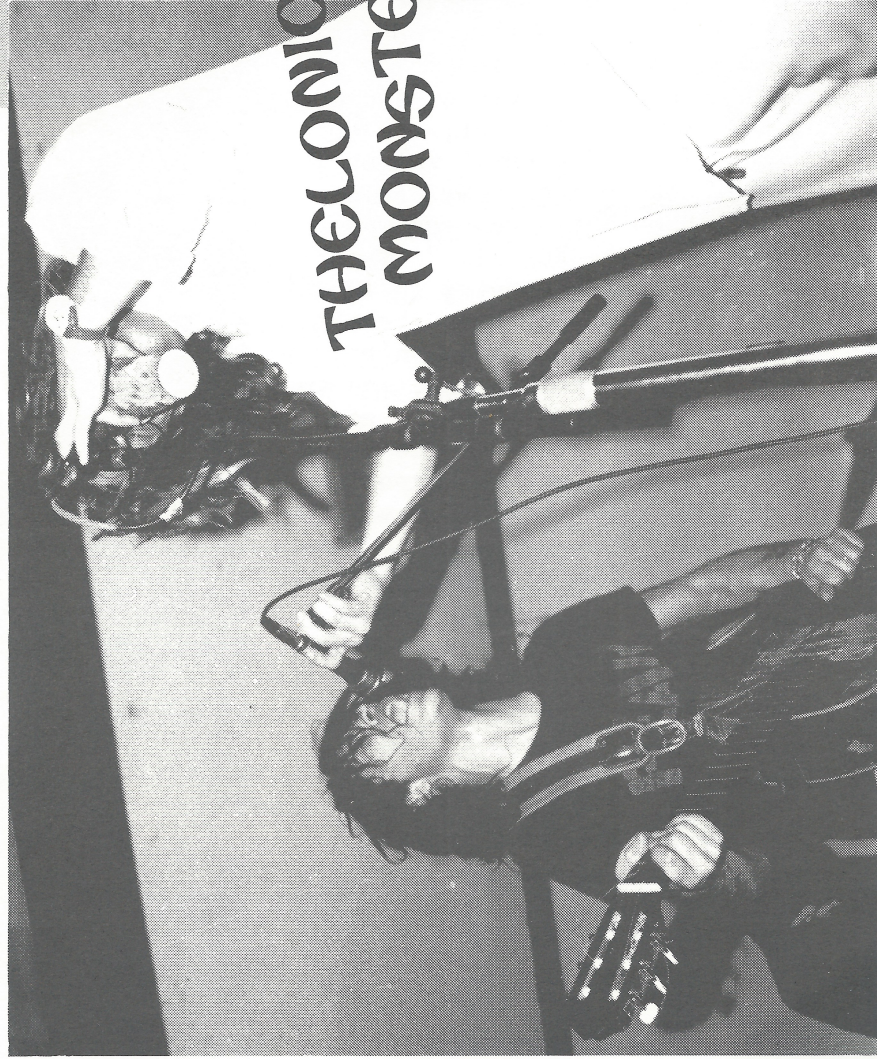
R.K.L. - A Rock'N'roll Nightmare

Pretty scorching material here. R.K.L.'s sound is much heavier than in the past, but it still sounds fast and furious. The lyrics are also of a fairly good quality and the comic book rounds this off as a great package. My only problem with R.K.L. is that a lot of their old time friends have an affliction with stupidity and violence. Is their guilt by association, or do I overlook? My eyes remain open... - Kent

STATE OF CONFUSION - A Street

Yeeoow!! Blasting out of Idaho comes S.O.C.'s second all out sonic attack of an album. And yes, this chunk of deadly wax will melt your ears and send you reeling into a void of musical confusion that has the control of a band that can shatter its way through fourteen cuts of fantasia. S.O.C. never holds back and they never disappoint! If you haven't dabbled in S.O.C then you haven't got a clue.

- Kent



WARZONE - Don't Forget The Struggle...

WHY?!? Why do the lyrics to this raging slab of pure power suck? Songs like "Fighting For The Country," "Skinhead Youth," and "We're The Crew" ruin this record! Their regressive and conservative attitudes aren't cool, or very positive. Some of their songs do however have good lyrics, but still there is no over-looking the violent skinhead lyrics. Having a skin is fine with me, but when violence and skinhead pride pour out of the image I have to say goodbye. - Kent



### VERBAL ASSAULT - HEAL

This is why I exist! Fantastic lyrics with the depth of "Heal," "Never Stop" and "Our Illusions" are a breath of adrenalin and sincerity. Put this to an uplifting musical wall that relies on snapping drums, a vibrant bass sound, and sizzling guitar work and the final accomplishment truly goes beyond simple entertainment. Verbal Assault's fight is not for the ears, but for the heart and mind. Their second record is a soul-felt example of what hardcore can be at its absolute best!! They are truly alive, and yes, they have one my heart and mind. - Kent

### DAG NASTY - Field Day

So this is the new Dag Nasty record... It sounds like shit, and it will sell well... They'll make a lot of money... What's new? - Kent

### SOCIAL DISTORTION - Prison Bound

After five years Social Distortion releases an album. Is it good? Yea, it's good. In fact it's G-R-E-A-t!! I was so impressed that after all of this time they haven't regressed into a budding pop band. The music is more in the slower vein of the early Posh Boy years. In fact, the opening cut, "It's The Law," was on The Future Looks Bright compilation, but in those days the song was called "Justice For All." There is also a definite country influence that hasn't really been there before. However, it doesn't detract from their sound, and to be quite honest I think it sounds really good. Mike's voice is as good as ever, and his experiences in the gutters of life have really brought out some thought provoking and sensitive lyrics. "Indulgence," "I Want What I Want," and "Lost Child" are all proof of this. It's just too bad that Dennis didn't read them. Highly recommended! - Kent

# SOCIAL DISTORTION

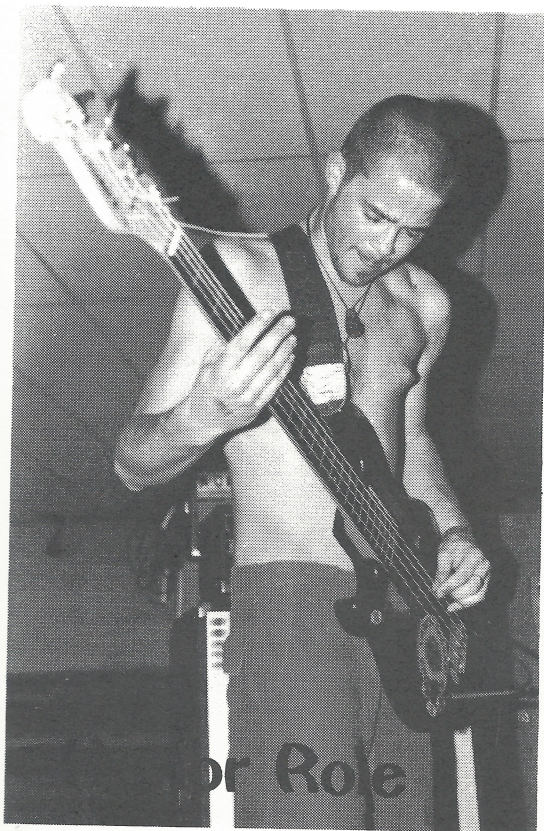
### SICK OF IT ALL - 7" EP

In the vein of Negative Approach this New York band blasts out nine scorching tunes of pure power! Unfortunately, "My Revenge" and "Pushed Too Far" put a damper on my excitement. Who wants to listen to a bunch of songs about beating people up? I for one do not. Great raging hardcore doesn't have to be violent. So, when are people going to wake up? Great music is no excuse for bullshit attitudes. - Kent

Photo: McClard







YOUTH OF TODAY - We're Not In This Alone  
Thheerr'eee BACK!!! Power crushing, thundering, earthquaking guitar storms forward with bone breaking bass and scalding drum work, while a savage entity of an animal snarls out bursts of intelligence that sends shivers of intensity in its wake! Yes, Youth of Today has returned with a brilliant slab of momentous wax! We're Not In This Alone establishes this crew as the masters of 1988. Nothing matters before and nothing matters in the future, this day belongs to the Youth of Today!! Absolutely 150% crucial!! Stand back 'cause the youthquake cometh...  
- Kent

FREE WILL - Demo Tape

No question--this cassette should have been on vinyl. As I see so many promising bands give in and go for that "larger audience" approach, Free Will offers to fill the gap. The six song package, complete with intro, strongly resembles early Dag Nasty & 7 Seconds (it is almost uncanny) and yet the best track, "Respect II," is distinctively their own. Personal and pertinent lyrics. Buy this tape and support another new worthwhile band from So. Cal. Any band that picks up what another band chooses to leave behind is a big hope for the let down fan (namely me). - Sonia

A PRIORI - Damn The Past

The old Shattered Faith, Social Distortion, and Red Rockers sound is reborn with a new breed and a refined intelligence that A Priori controls well. Every ounce of this 12" E.P., from the politically tight "Self Determination" to the impassioned concern of "Schoolkids," careens forward in a tradition that still holds extremely strong! This is a success. Keep it up! - Kent

HALF OFF - Shoot Guns 7"

This 3 song E.P. (on red wax) is the final testament of Half Off. "See It" is a good representation of their sound and the lyrics reflect the Black Flag influence that I find so much of, "Sailin' On" is good, but Billy can't replace HR, and "SGEP" is a tongue in cheek tune that could easily be a parody on Henry Rollins. Either way I question its effectiveness... Not a crucial 7", but a must have for Half Off fans. - Kent

INFECTION - Our Pledge 7"

This five piece churns its way through six tuns that flow along at a slower than thrash speed. Their sound is based on a wall of guitar and clearly heard vocals, but it's nothing to set you on fire. Their message is concerned with a strange kind of unity between skins and hawks. Overall, I'm left confused and sceptical. - Kent

SIDE SHOW - Out Of Mind 7"

Crawling out of Lincoln, Nebraska is a band that combines the so called D.C. sound with a hard edged musical attack and loud, up front, and important vocals. The end result is a combination that works very well! I thoroughly recomend this 7", and I can't wait for more material. This is a good direction for bands to go. - Kent





WIDE AWAKE/UP FRONT/PRESSURE RELEASE - X Marks The Spot 7"  
 Pressure Release stumbles forward with a pretty standard straight edge hardcore sound that comes complete with mosh parts. Their two songs contradict each other, which does not help. Wide Awake plays similar music and does a better job with the lyrics, but their interview portrays them as worried about their tough egos, not too cool! Up Front dominates the 7" with a sound that is a little less standard and their lyrics are smarter. They seem to realize that being straight edge doesn't make you better than the rest, only different. Hopefully, all of these bands will grow musically. Straight edge or not, we're all just human beings. - Kent

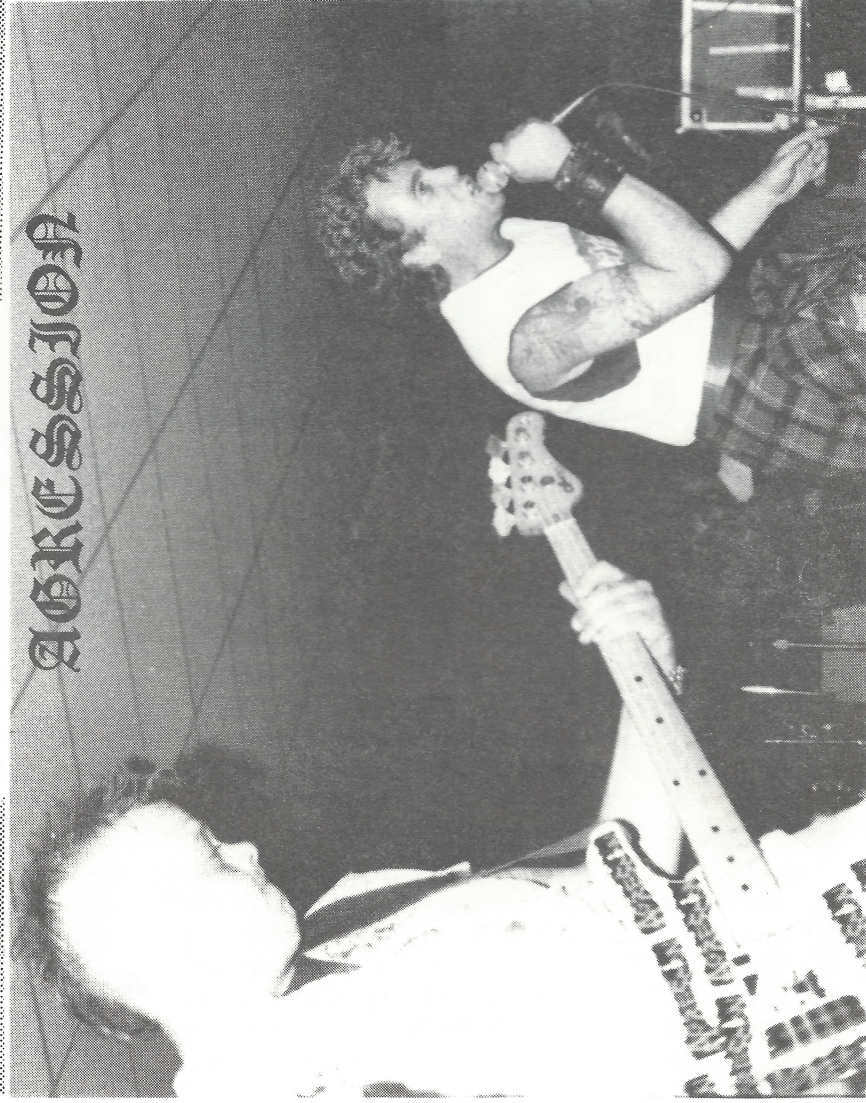
#### NO FOR AN ANSWER - You Laugh 7"

With a powerful musical punch N.F.A.A. rips and tears way beyond their influences, while spouting out lyrics that have a ton of thought behind them. Perfect! In 5 years this will be a classic! - Kent

HEAD-ON - Together demo tape  
 A very well produced tape of a Delaware band that shows a lot of diversity. Songs like "Land of The Too Cool" and "Inside" rage with a faster upbeat melodic sound that is in the vein of newer Californian straight edge bands like Free Will and Against The Wall. However, songs like "About Time" remind me of the shit that Dag Nasty is doing now. A mixed bag, but overall Head-On offers a good sound and an intelligence to match. - Kent

#### AGAIN/KEEP IN MIND - Split 7"

Again comes through loud and clear with solid vocals and well played music. Since they are a young band I'll be looking forward to more. Keep In Mind's side, however, suffers from a hellish production. Their sound is too muffled to pass judgement on. Both bands have a fairly standard straight-edge-core sound. Hopefully, they will grow with time, most do, but sometimes the end result isn't too hot. Keep that in mind. - Kent



#### CHRIST ON A CRUTCH - Spread Your Filth

Like thrash, politics, and humor? If you do then Christ On A Crutch will be right up your ally!

This 3 piece comes at you with a cutting wit, and stop and go, almost tuneful thrash. Their approach isn't really very new, but still it holds my attention. Some tunes are better than others, with "Nuclear Holocaust: A X-Mass Song" pushing its way to the top. Worth checking out. - Kent

#### DISSENT - DISSENT

The trip here is to think. Everything from their lyrics to their booklet reeks of this thing called thought, thus making me extremely happy! The music that backs it up is guitar dominated and of a good quality. I doubt if this will ever light up my life, but it's still very enjoyable. Besides, their music isn't as important as their message. A thinking human's band. Well Done! - Kent

#### TOKEN ENTRY - Jaybird

Flaming with a metallic afterburn, Token Entry thrusts its views at you like an unstoppable meteor of pure power!! It's just too bad that this East Coast outfit is no longer together, because their music is fully crucial, and they have minds to back it up!!! - Kent



Photos: McClard

# Scratch Acid



## WALK PROUD - Demo tape

While the production of this four song tape isn't the absolute best, I still dig these power driven tunes. Walk Proud's buzz saw guitar approach, pounding vocals, and speedy assault comes off very well. Their attitude is an American straight edge standard, which isn't to say that they're nationalists. Hopefully, they'll work towards some wax. - Kent

## ADOLESCENTS - Balboa Fun Zone

Losing Tony was a big drawback. However, I still find this to be enjoyable. It's at least as good as Brats In Battalions. Granted they don't sound like the original Adolescents that set us all on fire, and tunes like "'Til She Comes Down" aren't too great, but something here prevents me from being disgusted. Worthwhile, though not for everyone. - Kent

## FINAL CONFLICT - Ashes To Ashes

I know that this is really old, but I think that this record is extremely crucial right now. They are a band that has a great hardcore trash sound, and great political lyrics. Their guitar orientated smack you in

the face sound is a fantastic conveyor of their ideas. The important thing about this band is that they are crossing over into the straight edge scene. There should be more bonding between the s.e. kids and the political kids! Anyway, if you like hardcore that has that shreddin' political thrash bent then you better go out and get this scorching wax job while it still lasts! - Kent

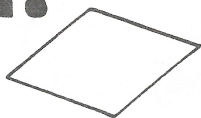
College radio with a bite!

The Restless Intellect with  
Kent & Sonia from 2am to  
**KCSB 91.9fm** 6am on Sunday nights...

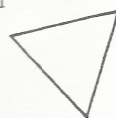
When in Santa Barbara, Oxnard, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, and Thousand Oaks (or in areas like that) give Sonia and I a listen! I know it's late, but believe me it'll be worth it. Besides, we should have a new time slot in mid September... listen for our promo when listening to the other shows... Bands, send records and tapes for air play and review in the next issue of this dead tree...



# UNSUBS ROCK!



Photos: McClard



## 7 SE CON D



## S



Yo friend! Here is where I get to inform you about all the stuff I know. This will be the section where you can read rumors and news that has been floating around. Well, let us look into... HALF OFF's singer, Billy, told me that they are no longer an outfit. Their bass player didn't want to do the thang anymore, so rather than get a new member they decided to call it quits. Billy does, however, say that they'll have something new together in time... From Arizona I hear that Eric, the LAST OPTION drummer, has been replaced. He runs Stepforward records. No wonder LAST OPTION has changed to Soul Force records... A couple of the JUSTICE LEAGUE dudes have reformed as CHAIN OF STRENGTH. They should be playing out in the next few months... On the New York front: YOUTH OF TODAY's Walter, Mr. bass player, has broken his leg. So in order for them to finish their tour their roadie and one time WAR ZONE drummer, Lukie Luke, has taken over for Walter. It works well!! Sonia and I were just up in Berkeley to check out some of the nation's hot new acts. The Gilman Street Project is having some very serious insurance problems. They need to put a stop to slam dancing. My view is grim... On a better note, SOUL SIDE and SWIZ tore it up with a vigor that their vinyl lacks. New material coming from both in the near future... We also saw NO FOR AN ANSWER, UNDERDOG, MIND OVER IV, BOLD, and YOUTH OF TODAY. A note of praise must go out to MIND OVER IV. They opened for these hardcore outfits and did a Hell of a job!! Their set had a power that their debut album totally lacks... YOUTH OF TODAY was the definite master of the fest, while NO FOR AN ANSWER pulled a close second, followed by UNDERDOG and BOLD. While BOLD had a pretty good sound, their set lacked something that I can't quite place... Maybe their debut 12", Speak Out, will dash that away... UNDERDOG, on the other hand, had a flare of originality that placed them in a high rank... Great news! The long gone Guilty Face 7" by the FREEZE is being re-pressed! Should be great! Oh yea, I almost forgot, YOUTH OF TODAY's debut 7" might become a 12" with three extra trax... Also, Ray of Today is recording a solo single to be released on Revelation records... At the very least it should be interesting... On a sad note, TOKEN ENTRY has called it quits. They ended right before playing a couple of shows in the S. F. area. Their new LP will be their last, which doesn't please this rocker... YOUTH OF Bustin' out of California comes the

straight edge units of today... FREE WILL, AGAINST THE WALL and STRAIGHT ARM are these. Their demos are all available through Stepforward records in Arizona... Stepforward/1926 E. Caroline Ln./Tempe, AZ 85264... Speaking of Californian bands, INSTEAD's album, which is due out on Wishing Well/Giant records has been set back due to the loss of the art work for the back of the record. Hopefully that will clear up soon... Also, Rob has left his place as NO FOR AN ANSWER's second guitar. He is once again providing power for HARD STANCE... Speaking of straight edge bands... Smorgasbord 'zine has released a 7" compilation that features the noise of UP FRONT, PRESSURE RELEASE, and WIDE AWAKE. The production isn't the best but the bands aren't bad, though they still feel young and a little standard. Time will help, I hope. Smorgasbord/78 Adams Ave./Stamford, CT 06902... Similar story with a split 7" by KEEP IN MIND and AGAIN. It comes from Donut Crew records and Skate Edge 'zine. Worth checkin' out, 9862 E. Pinewood/Englewood, CO 80111... They should also have a 7" by BROTHERHOOD,

Have you

which has a few members of Seattle's FALSE LIBERTY... I've heard from a fairly reliable source that R.K.L. has a live double album coming out, 7 SECONDS also has a new record coming out that is called Ourselves. I wonder how it will sound??? VISUAL DISCRIMINATION's debut vinyl is still coming as is UNIFORM CHOICE's 2nd release. I have doubts if that will ever come, but still we wait... Hey what's the deal with all these BLACK FLAG rereleases and compilations? I hear a "T.V. Party" 12" is due out! Is SST trying to suck the FLAG's bones for all they're worth?? Speaking of money, the rerelease of the MISFITS' Walk Among Us LP is out by now on Warner records? Who's making money on this thing? I heard some rumor that there was a riot at a SLAYER/DANZIG gig in Southern California... DANZIG's debut 12" is due in the stores sometime in September... Looking for well produced straight edge, melodic hardcore? Pop an eye out for a tape that goes by the name of Together. The band is called HEAD-ON and they deliver the goods, though in my opinion some of the merchandise is damaged goods. Write to 302 Country Club Dr./Wilmington, DE 19803... I hear D.R.I. is playing in T.J., Mexico, my idea of cool... Well, let me see, what else do I know? Almost forgot, I've heard, or read, that S.S. DECONTROL's The Kids Will Have Their Say has been bootlegged by Ex-Claim records...



Keep your eyes peeled kids!!! This could easily turn out to be false, but I've heard that the FACTION is planning to release a compact disc of some of their hard to find stuff, i.e. the Yesterday Is Gone 7"... Also, a word of warning, I've heard that I'M records still has a few copies of the FACTION's No Hidden Messages LP for sale. Hurry before that is no more... What's this Brian Baker says that MINOR THREAT was just something he did when he was young, it didn't mean much to him! He'd like to be with MOTLEY CREW, they're not in need?? ...Will the bootleg craze ever end? Everything from HUSKER DU to the URINALS has shown up. The message is loud and clear: reprint the classics!! Maybe someone will be kind enough to do a bootleg of the ABUSED 7"!!! I would pay! In fact I'll pay or trade for your original copy! Write me if that sounds good. In fact, I'm a sick record collector, so send your lists...

SUICIDAL TENDENCIES have a new LP coming out pretty soon. Who do you think is going to buy that?? They can't play the L.A. area due to their fear of death. Which brings me to another point, Fenders Ballroom burned down, not totally, but enough that their doors will never

Photo:  
McClard

open their doors again. It might have been a hot box, but it was better than nothing... Have you seen the new record by Idaho's STATE OF CONFUSION? It's called A Street and it crunches hard! It's their second, and a fine one at that... Personal plug here: when in Santa Barbara, Oxnard, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, or places in that area listen to KCSB 91.9 FM... On Sunday nights or Monday mornings, depending on how you think, you can listen to a radio show that is put together by Sonia and I. We do the thang from 2A.M. until 6A.M... In my mind it's good... Not really that much more to add to this mess. If you have some interesting information to spill then please drop a line my way. Also, bands should send recorded material to me! I'll review it in upcoming issues of this rag, and Sonia and I will give it a spin on the air... Bands, play live on the air!! Call us.

KENT MCCLARD  
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heard...



blast



no answers  
'zine



bad  
brains

Photos: McClard